

# Victoria Street Newz

April/May, 2005

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Vol. 1 No. 6

## Feed Your Head

### DRUG WAR CASUALTIES

*Phyllis Kahn became a human rights enthusiast on a trip through the southern U.S. during her childhood. Her interest in social justice issues motivated her studies in social sciences and inspired her work at various inner-city social agencies. Phyllis' search for a more humane social climate brought her to Canada in 1970. Her essay, "Drug War Casualties," covers several aspects of the ; 'war on drugs.' Part II will be printed in the next edition of Victoria Street Newz.*

Recently, I spotted "Reefer Madness" at the library and I reflected on the alarming possibility of this video being taken seriously. Since I don't find the lies and hysteria depicted in this alleged spoof amusing, I decided to put my thoughts into words about drugs and addiction in relation to 'the 'war on drugs.'

I trust the reader will bear with me for addressing the subject of cannabis, a sacred herb used in religious practice for thousands of years, in the same context as opiates which rob users of their health, sensibilities and lives as they knew them.

To clarify addiction, I quote from Jerry Stahl's memoir, Permanent Midnight as he is an eloquent expert on 'junky life' or more precisely, the negation and

obliteration of life with heroin. I also refer to William S. Burroughs from the 50th anniversary edition of his first novel, Junky. Burroughs depicts the grim circumstances enveloping the lives of heroin addicts from first hand experience, in an effort to dispel myths. The Strange Case of Dr. Jekyll & Mr. Hyde by Robert Louis Stevenson, written during a cocaine binge, sheds light on the internal conflict addicts experience. I also include some medical findings on recovery from narcotic addiction.

Dr. Floyd Garret's assertion that "the first casualty of addiction, like that of war, is the truth" in his essay "Addiction, Lies & Relationships" is 'right on' concerning this issue. The classification of prohibited substances, as they appear in legislation, lumps psychedelics and narcotics together despite their vast differences. "Cannabis was added to the Schedule (of prohibited drugs) in the Opium & Narcotic Drug Act in 1923 before cannabis was identified as a social issue in Canada -- a solution without a problem" ([www.cfdp.ca](http://www.cfdp.ca)).

Cannabis was deemed illegal in 1937 in the U.S. Racism is reputed to have fueled these laws that got pushed through in the absence of debate or scientific knowledge in both the U.S & Canada. In the U.S., The Harrison (narcotics act), 1914 decreed that a non-medical user could not legitimately buy or possess narcotics. "The act was a paradoxical piece of legislation because it incorrectly classified cocaine as a narcotic when in fact the drug is a stimulant" (Cocaine, p.8).

These discrepancies are misleading and could generate fear that promotes the brand of hysteria illustrated in "Reefer Madness." For the sake of clarification, cannabis & LSD expand conscious awareness, allowing use of more than 10% of the brain and thereby enhances sensory perception. Whereas narcotics, such as heroin and morphine depress the central nervous system i.e. sedate and diminish sensory perception and contribute to sexual dysfunction.

Another significant difference between psychedelics and narcotics is that narcotics are addictive but psychedelics are not. Narcotics involve withdrawal symptoms that take days or months, depending on the drug. This process is reported to be agonizing and involves very severe flu like symptoms. Cannabis, unlike narcotics, is not toxic. "100% of the studies done at dozens of American universities & research facilities show toxicity does not exist. Medical history does not record anyone dying from an overdose of marijuana (UCLA, Harvard, Temple, etc.)" (Hemp & the Marijuana Conspiracy).

According to Burroughs, the ill effects that accompany withdrawal from narcotics can be avoided with a more humane 'reduction' approach. Addicts can be provided with medication to help them taper off the drug gradually, as opposed to 'cold turkey' withdrawal common in 28 day detox situations. Not much success is achieved via these detox programs because unnecessary suffering often drives addicts back to their addictions. And detox is simply not a comprehensive enough approach to cure so severe an affliction. It is like applying a

(Continued on page 3)

**February 23, 2005. Leaked documents confirm  
B.C. government plans to expand park privatization:**

[www.wildernesscommittee.org/campaigns/policy/parks](http://www.wildernesscommittee.org/campaigns/policy/parks)

More about BC's environment on pages 14 and 15.



Photo: 2004 rally at Legislature

# About Street Newz

*"Building Bridges within our Downtown Community"*

The Victoria STREET NEWZ mission is to provide a voice, and income opportunities, for economically marginalized and/or socially disadvantaged people, at the same time offering employable skills training, increased self-esteem, confidence, and pride in accomplishments.

Victoria STREET NEWZ is sold by licensed vendors who sign a code of conduct. They buy the newspaper for \$.50 each, and resell them by donation.

You can contribute to social change by supporting the Victoria STREET NEWZ coalition and vendors, and by reading information that informs you directly about poverty and homeless issues. Please consider purchasing another copy later in the month, for a friend.

Victoria STREET NEWZ welcomes written submissions including interviews, event reviews, cartoons, poetry, photographs, or artwork, but we can't guarantee everything will be published. We reserve the right to edit, and will not print anything libelous, racist, sexist, or homophobic. Letters sent to the editor are assumed to be for publication, must include phone number or email (for confirmation), and may be edited for length.

Opinions expressed in this newzpaper are not necessarily those of Victoria STREET NEWZ, the editors, advertisers, contributors, readers, or publishers.

Victoria STREET NEWZ is a project of the Bread and Roses Collective, a new non-profit society.

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**Submissions, contributions, and donations for Victoria Street Newz can be sent to:**

**Janine Bandcroft,**  
**Victoria Street Newz Coordinator, Editor, Publisher**  
**c/o #407, 1939 Lee Avenue,**  
**Victoria, B.C. V8R 4W9**  
**Coast Salish Territory,**  
**250-598-3064**  
**streetnewz@pej.ca**  
**<http://streetnewz.communitypipe.org>**

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## Happy Birthday, Victoria Street Newz !

On April 1st, 2004, the first deadline for the two-year welfare time limits imposed by the BC Liberals, I ventured onto the streets with a preliminary edition of Street Newz. Victoria's activist community had taken to the streets in protest (the time limit, not the paper), and the newly formed Faith in Action coalition had organized a day of inter-faith prayers at the Legislature. My intention was to present the newspaper idea, test the waters, and decide how, and whether, to proceed.

Armed with overwhelming support and encouragement from my family and friends in the community, a small amount of personal savings, and a background in business, activism, and academics, the vision has been transformed into a reality.

To support Street Newz I built a not-for-profit Society - the Bread and Roses Collective - and joined many others in the obligatory quest for funding. I was disheartened, but not dissuaded, when the federal government (HRDC and Business Victoria) turned me down, when the provincial government denied me welfare (because I owned an RRSP), when I began adding up the hours I'd spent writing grants that weren't fulfilled. I can honestly say that if it weren't for the many generous individuals who live among us, Street Newz wouldn't be here today.

But Street Newz lives, a year later, and I'm so very grateful to everyone who's helped to make that happen. We've established a cooperative and friendly team of Street Newz vendors whose quality of life is vastly improved because of your support. These folks are ambassadors for all the poor people everywhere. They're individuals, each with their own story, each working to survive from day to day, each with an understanding of poverty that is unique from every other. Street Newz vendors are building bridges - they're communicating with people from various socio-economic lifestyles, including tourists and travellers who support similar newspapers in their home towns.

I've lived in poverty for over 15 years, most of that time as a student and traveller, but this newspaper has pulled the curtain on a world I never knew existed. Every day offers new opportunities for learning and understanding. As my knowledge of social issues evolves, I realize there's no going back. I can no longer take a job simply for the paycheck, my ethics will not allow it. I can no longer stand by while innocent lives are taken, while unjust laws are imposed, while the earth is ravaged for profit and greed.

During the past year I've watched this newspaper take on a life of its own - each issue is increasingly filled with submissions of words, ideas, and images from the varied and diverse low-income community, many of whom are just barely hanging on.

In this issue there's a fair amount about drugs and addiction, definitely controversial territory worth discussing. Phyllis' mention of 'drug cults' got me thinking about all the different thought control mechanisms we encounter daily. I reviewed some research I'd done for a University course, about cults generally:

*Cult leaders demand unquestioning commitment, take credit for group accomplishments, and promote an 'us-versus-them' mentality. Cult members zealously protect their leader, sometimes copying his or her mannerisms, enforcing the group's elitist stature. Those who disagree with the leader or the group-thought are made to feel that they're stupid or inept, potentially evil, and unable to function on their own as individuals.*

Any sort of group-thought, then, is not far removed from cult mentality. Certainly the "if you're not with us, you're against us" decree from the Bush Government is eerily cultish. How about party politics generally? Watch for signs of cult thought as our otherwise friendly community divides itself into somewhat hostile camps as the May 17th election approaches. (I hate when that happens, maybe proportional representation will help?).

If you think about it, there are a lot of borderline cults, though many lack a clearly defined leadership. How about capitalism (remember McCarthyism?), 'communism' (is 'state control' really what Marx and Lenin intended?), car ownership (save the cyclists! see Cyann's article on page 9), the meat and dairy industry, the military industrial complex (never mind dismantling the wmd's, just quit building them!), shopping (fashion rules! who cares if it's made in sweat shops), oil and gas development (at the expense of ancient cities, modern lives, and the earth's protection), genetic engineering (protect the seeds!), newspapers and magazines and printed propaganda (and the forests continue to fall, although there are options - see page 15).

The only cult I really care about, though, is the cult of the Victoria Street Newz ... *you are feeling sleepy, you will believe everything you read on these pages, you will offer your first born ...* WAIT, STOP! WAKE UP! Think for yourself! Question Authority! Have faith in your own ideas!

CELEBRA TE! We've been here a year, and it doesn't look like we're going away any time soon. Many staff and elected officials at the City of Victoria are pleased with our efforts (see story, page 7) and we've received approval to venture into Esquimalt. Vancity credit union has recently promised a \$5000 grant (thank you!), and there's a chance our charitable application will be approved by the feds.

Thanks so much to everyone who's helped throughout the past year, we wouldn't be here without you! Now if we can only convince Oak Bay, Saanich, the University of Victoria, some friendly shop-keepers, and cheery low-income folk to embrace the time honoured tradition of newspaper hawking ...



Some of the board members of the **Bread and Roses Collective**, whose purposes are to relieve poverty and advance educational opportunities for socially disadvantaged and/or economically marginalized people.

Petra Sinats (and Dzeja), Larry Wartel, Janine Bandcroft, Bob Ryder.  
Missing: Penelope Shafer, Suki Athwal, Kim Fagerlund



**Drug War Casualties, con't from pg. 1**

band-aid to a broken leg. Yet heroin addicts are known to self-detox. Jerry Stahl accomplished this ordeal alone, on his own in approximately three days.

Other heroin addicts withdrew with the use of cannabis. Cannabis is well known for its medicinal properties and cannot rightly be considered a drug in any other than a medicinal sense. "Vitamin B-3 (Niacin) has also been used for Heroin withdrawal, both as a guarantee against convulsions and as post withdrawal therapy" (Psycho-Dietetics). According to Vic Pawlak, director of the 'Do It Now Foundation,' (a national organization involved with drug education), "85% of the cases recuperated following megavitamin treatment. Considering the low recovery rate of heroin addicts on other programs, this percentage borders on astonishing" (Psycho-Dietetics).

An increasing number of doctors are currently treating schizophrenia, learning disabilities, drug addiction, pellagra, alcoholism and memory loss successfully with varying combinations of megavitamins, drugs and carefully controlled diet" (Orthomolecular Nutrition). LSD has also been used in controlled/therapeutic settings to cure alcoholism beginning with the successes of Dr. Abram Hoffer & Dr. Humphry Osmond, pioneers of this research breakthrough in the 50's.

During the 1960s' psychedelic revolution in consciousness, LSD was used with careful philosophical preparation as an aid to enlightenment. After prohibition, an entire generation's hopes for a more humane society were overcome by hysteria, greed and injustice. "In May 1969, it became an offense in Canada to possess LSD or any other restricted drug on the new Schedule J under Part 1V " (Panic & Indifference, 482).

Burroughs mentioned an addict who committed suicide when he found out his addiction had been criminalized. And it is likely that many suicides can be attributed to people who didn't want to engage in criminal activity to support their habits. Hysteria proceeded to escalate and the "gate-way drug" myth surfaced in the 70's to rationalize the prohibition of psychedelics. There is no scientific basis for this myth. I suspect that enlightenment got too 'freaky' for the faint of heart who turned to sedation and pleasure button pushing.

Today's kids, with their cornucopia of drugs, are in peril due to draconian drug legislation that arrests and brands them with criminal records which diminishes their opportunities for a productive life in society and only fuels their addictions. Every one of those blue plastic tubes strewn all over town represents another young person's trashed life. We, as responsible adults, are obliged to support 'harm reduction' policies, not legislation that condemns a generation of young people to die in the streets. The urgency of the drug problem has escalated enormously and cannot be overlooked. But it is a problem that can be resolved with knowledge, understanding, mercy and the application of justice. All it would take is the stroke of a pen.

William Burroughs contended, as a result of his own experience, that addiction exists on a cellular level. Thus, cells are transformed by the ingestion of heroin which culminates in a chemical addiction. This phenomenon accounts for why addicts maintain that their addictions are not a choice. And the decision to quit is not a conscious one as he points out. His findings were eventually published in medical literature.

Jerry Stahl, like Burroughs alludes to the chemical nature of addiction when he says, "I knew I'd never stop using on my own, that it would be an act of nature."

However, because he was able to articulate this thought, even in retrospect, his cognitive ability was intact. Therefore, his physiological disposition was in sync with his psychological desire to quit. Whether or not the chicken comes before the egg is a moot point. Technically, even if there is no conscious choice to quit using, after undergoing detox, with the aid of megavitamins and a special diet, there'd be a good chance not to develop another addiction.

There would also be an opportunity to exercise one's conscious will over temptation. After all, our minds are our most powerful tool and there are addicts who have attained sobriety by taking control of their thought processes.

*More from Phyllis' essay, "Drug War Casualties," in the next issue of Victoria Street Newz (scheduled for release June 1st, 2005).*

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**BILL M 202 -- 2004 SAFE STREETS ACT -- (excerpts)**

**A person commits an offense, who solicits ,**

(a) a person who is using, waiting to use, or departing from an automated teller machine,

(b) a person who is using or waiting to use a pay telephone or a public toilet facility.

(c) a person who is waiting at a taxi stand or a public transit stop,

(d) a person who is in or on a public transit vehicle,

(e) a person who is in the process of getting in, out of, on or off a vehicle or who is in a parking lot, or

(f) while on a roadway, a person who is in or on a stopped, standing or parked vehicle.

**Disposal of certain dangerous things prohibited**

A person commits an offense, who disposes of any of the following items in an outdoor public place:

(a) a used condom;

(b) a new or used hypodermic needle or syringe;

(c) broken glass

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Kevin Drum, February 18, 2005

[www.washingtonmonthly.com/archives/individual/2005\\_02/005682.php](http://www.washingtonmonthly.com/archives/individual/2005_02/005682.php)

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# ... what's on your mind .....

To the editor:

The Liberal Budget does not add up. After almost four years of shredding public interest, the public should be skeptical of any good news announcements from the liberals that they're going to fix the problems they made, like their cuts to education and healthcare. This is coming from a premier who said tax cuts would not lead to cuts in services since tax cuts would pay for themselves. Well closing hospitals, schools, and courthouses and cutting msp services are cuts to service.

BC Rail was not for sale, BC Hydro wasn't for privatization. They deliberately turned the surplus they inherited from the NDP into a deficit, so they can justify their evil and unnecessary cuts.

Four years ago, Gordon Campbell said he did not believe in tearing up contracts, yet after the election he did exactly that with bill 29. The Liberal government justified their attack on the HEU by saying they were the highest paid healthcare workers in the country; to that I say "so what if they are?" Vancouver is the third most expensive city in the country to live in.

Any budget that has tax cuts, increased spending, debt reduction and a balanced budget should be viewed with skepticism; it should be viewed as too good to be true. Especially when it's an election budget.

Yeah I say his word on this funding is about as good as his word on all the broken promises from the last election.

Andre Mollon, Victoria

To the editor:

Recently, I had occasion to eat dinner at "The Upper Room" on Pandora Avenue. Among the droves of guests, I was one of the few whom actually paid for my meal. While one may expect to encounter profound brokenness in many of the guests there, I wasn't prepared for what was dished out to me.

An aboriginal man chose to sit across from me about half way through my meal. Within moments, he began lashing me with his tongue - in a pointed, vile fashion. He disparaged me only because of the colour of my skin, telling me that I was "a worthless, white-boy wuss," and mercilessly berated me during the remainder of my dinner. Evenutally, I asked our volunteer server to summon the one in charge (a paid staffer) and I asked him to intervene to protect me. This man's response was "I'm only a cook, what do you expect of me? ... you can move to another table if you don't like being treated this way."

"The Upper Room" is clearly mandated by the Christian Gospel and is, in fact, directed by an ordained Presbyterian cleric. It is imperative that this dining-room be a safe haven for all guests and that human dignity be upheld and defended by every volunteer and staff-member. The status quo of the street has no place in a place purporting to offer hospitality in the name of the Christ.

I call upon the thousands of donating individuals, businesses, service clubs, churches, and other Faith-based supporters to withhold their financial gifts from "The Upper Room" and hold its board of directors and staff to the fire over violations against human dignity which are a regular feature of its existence. Better to channel their fiscal benevolence to food banks - where at least guests can carry the food home, eat their meals in dignity, and not withstand the vicious racist running commentary this guest endured at "The Open Door."

Réal Saint Laurent, Victoria

Dear Editor,

I am a physically handicapped person. I can't find work because nobody wants to hire a handicapped person. Being a hard working person with a good work ethic doesn't count for much. Being talented doesn't count for much. Being conscientious and having integrity doesn't count for much.

I have been turned down for handicapped pension because the government doesn't think my condition is severe enough. I had a note from a doctor describing the severity of my condition but the government disregarded this. Do they really think they know more about this than my doctor?

I don't have a family or a faith community. I have special dietary needs because I am handicapped. Food banks and soup kitchens don't cater to people with special needs.

I don't have a government that really wants to help those who fall between the cracks. It doesn't matter to them that the cracks were created by their own policies and the bureaucrats who apply those policies as cruelly as they can.

The world doesn't owe me a living. But I do think the world owes me an opportunity to make a living that can support myself.

I am not asking for special treatment. All I am asking is to be treated with the same dignity and respect as anybody else who is able and willing to work despite being handicapped.

Why doesn't somebody with real power really understand my need?

Yours respectfully,  
Robin Kingsley

To the editor:

How much longer can 'democracy' survive in Canada in the face of a massive assault by the Corporate Media.

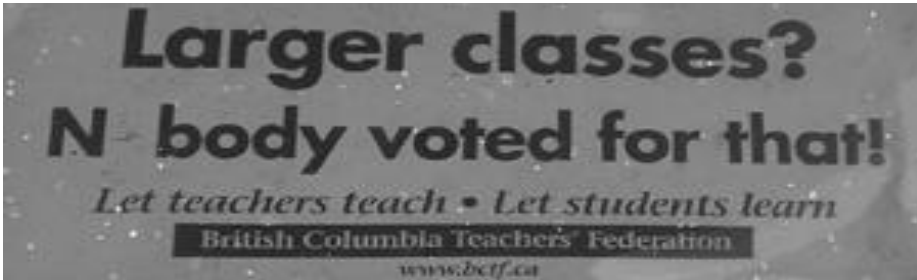
The latest example is the vicious attacks on the Martin government for not joining the US 'missile defence' plan to weaponize space. The media have attacked the government from all sides. Can any government continue to make non-corporate decisions when they have to face these hate-filled assaults for doing so. The ridicule is both personal (at Martin) and at the government. And it is 'total', because the major media is completely corporate controlled.

Corporate Canada wants us in this missile scheme, and are using their media as a weapon to get us there. The story they present is one-sided, filled with disinformation, but very effective. They use their media to lie to and manipulate a significant segment of Canadians, in order to move the Corporate agenda ahead.

Who is making policy in this country ... the people or the corporations. In my opinion the answer is the Corporations- and their media is a big part of their power. And they have done it to us for decades, from the phony story about 'overspending on social programs causing the National Debt', to the deliberate dismantling of health care which is presented to Canadians as 'the system does not work and we need to privatize'.

We have to fight back. We have to attack the corporate media as they attack what remains of Democracy in Canada, because if we don't, their agenda will prevail completely. Thousands of people listen to 'talk radio'. You can get your message out. CFAX (1070) ...386-1161... or CKNW (980) at 1-877-399-9898. These are YOUR airwaves... they have been taken over by the Corporations, but you can still use them. Please do so.

Jack Etkin, Victoria



Dear editor,

You may be wondering what on earth has happened to this \$75 million that the Education Minister claims has been added to the provincial special ed budget since 2001. The claims are factually incorrect (and outrageously so!). The Ministry statement claims that:

"The plan builds on government's commitment in the throne speech to increase funding for special education students by a projected \$28 million next year to nearly \$260 million. Since 2001/02, special needs funding has increased by almost \$75 million."

Compare this to the figures quoted in "A Review of Special Education in BC" - the report of a special review team appointed by the former Education Minister in March 1999:

"In 1999/2000 the Ministry of Education allocated \$422,790,218 to special education. A preliminary review of the 1999/2000 school board preliminary budgets shows that \$54,000,000 above the Ministry of Education target minimum has been budgeted for special education."

Therefore, according to the Ministry's own figures, funding for special ed has not increased by \$75 million—it is currently almost half of what it was in 1999/2000.

(The Review of Special Ed in BC was co-chaired by Dr. Linda Siegel, Dorothy C. Lam Chair in Special Education at University of British Columbia, and by the Assistant Deputy Minister, Educational Support Services. The full report can be accessed from the MoE Website <http://www.bced.gov.bc.ca/specialed/review/report/>)

Dawn Steele

For more information: ( <http://www.strategicthoughts.com/>)

Dear Janine I must congratulate you on your newspaper and news report...how do you do it? Your capacity for organizing details and the prose that pulls it all together are an inspiration. You are unique. Peace and Love, Jenny

Dear Janine,

Thank you for your interest in the Tulsequah Chief Mine project. Your concern about the impact of planned road to the site on the environment of the Taku region is one that I share. On January 12 Peter Stoffer, the NDP's Fisheries Critic, issued a statement in which he called upon Minister Geoff Regan to halt the assessment process for this mine because the integrity of the process has been compromised. He pointed out that mining lobbyists have had undue influence on DFO officials, who at the same time refuse to meet with local residents including the Taku River Tlingit First Nation.

I will pass your comments along to Mr. Stoffer, who I am sure will be happy to include your name to the overwhelming list of Canadians who are opposed to environmentally disastrous projects such as this.

Thank you for your concern. Be assured that we have every intention to do what we can to ensure the environmental integrity of this region.

Sincerely,  
Nathan Cullen, MP, Skeena-Bulkley Valley

Hi Janine—thanks for the wonderful work you are doing in our world! Here's our subscription \$ and donation. Take Care! Andrea

One Less Car ..... cyann ray

I think we can all agree that cycling is a good thing. Good for your heart and good for the planet. Whether you're a weekend cruiser or a daily commuter, every mile travelled by honest RPM's rather than by the burning of toxic fossil fuels is a good thing. Cycling is part of the global solution.

As a society we should be aiming for a cleaner and healthier environment and that means less cars. Cycling is the obvious and most economical alternative. The Mustard Seed's new "Pro-Seed Cycle Club" is a great idea. Collecting bicycles and redistributing them to those in need exemplifies the benefits of recycling while improving the lives of the poor. Establishing more bike lanes and secure parking is another step in the right direction. Designing bike trailers that can safely haul around children, dogs and various cargo is a huge advancement to the peddling community. Our annual "Bike To Work" week does a terrific job at promoting the physical and environmental benefits of driving less and cycling more. And the expansion of The Galloping Goose is one of our city's finest pro-cycling accomplishments.

Clearly Victoria is making an effort to be bike friendly. However, there remains a huge obstacle in this greening process: sloppy, inconsiderate drivers \*. Ask most people who can ride why they don't and the #1 reason is it's too dangerous. Fear is a powerful motivator of behaviour. The irony here is that "U.S. and British studies have shown that per kilometre travelled, cycling is much less dangerous than driving, walking or just about any other moving experience. Far more lives are prolonged by the aerobic workout than are ended by accidents." (Peter Gorrie, Toronto Star, May 5/03). Regardless, most folks still feel safer if they're tucked way within the steel armour of a motorized vehicle. We must work on changing this perception.

I am a cyclist with over 100,000 accident-free miles to my credit. The *only* reason I have never been hurt while cycling is because I spot the sloppy, inconsiderate drivers \* ahead of time and respond defensively. Cycling should not have to be a battle for safe passage amongst those sharing the roads. Here's how I believe we can improve things for everyone:

Drivers:

- accept that bikes are part of the solution and belong on our roads
- appreciate the physical limitations and vulnerability of cycling and be courteous sharing the road
- be aware of our presence; look for us in your mirrors, especially before turning
- realise that each vehicle has at least two, if not four "auxiliary weapons" called *doors...DO NOT OPEN DOORS WITHOUT LOOKING FIRST*
- signal your intentions to turn or pull over
- do not drive a vehicle larger than you can handle
- park as close to the curb as possible
- refrain from using car windows as ashtrays
- seek professional training if you area nervous or inexperienced driver
- *Get Off The Phone!* Driving may be easy, but it is serious business

\* While drivers are certainly the most significant threat to cyclists and general street safety, pedestrians and other cyclists can also be a problem.

Pedestrians:

- look both ways before crossing
- be careful stepping out between parked cars
- if you must j-walk, yield to on-coming traffic (which includes bicycles) or scurry out of the way
- *KEEP RIGHT* when using The Goose
- Joggers, *get off the road!* It doesn't matter how fast you can run, you are *NOT* a vehicle

Cyclists:

- be seen
- be heard...use a horn to wake up those not paying attention
- be responsible...novice riders should gain experience before heading into traffic

None of what I'm suggesting is difficult. ( I learned about looking both ways before crossing in kindergarten). It's important that we all do what we can to make our streets safer for everyone. A little consideration can go a long way. Maybe this will result in one less car, and that would be a good thing.



James is a person in your neighbourhood ...

James lived most of his life on the streets, and he's got plenty to say about alcoholism, addiction, and his own recovery. Mostly he's thankful to those who were there for him when he finally decided to sober up - way back in 1993.

"I was tired," James remembers, "life tired. No matter how much I drank or how many drugs I took, nothing worked."

Lucky for James, the Alano Club and Pemberton House Detox were fully functional at that time and the Salvation Army offered free rooms. The Alano Club and Pemberton House have since lost a lot of their funding, and the Sally Ann has shifted away from its original mandate.



A decade ago, though, the caring people associated with these organizations saved James' life. "All the right things happened for what I needed at the time," James explains. "Unfortunately it's different now - the addicted suffer from simple poverty, and many services have disappeared for lack of funding."

Along with a shift in funding priorities came a shift in attitude, according to James. "The current attitude is about containment - just put them somewhere. From there you're responsible for your own healing."

What would James do differently? Don't get him started! Here's a few of his suggestions:

1. Have fully funded and accessible programs in place. There's currently a wait list of several weeks. Who knows what might happen between the time someone puts their name on a list for a bed and the time they actually gain access to one. Sure accessibility costs money, but the social costs of ignoring the problem are huge - policing the associated theft and vandalism, for example, not to mention health costs. Funding addictions services is a sound fiscal investment over the long term, and it's a more compassionate and humane approach.
2. Focus on prevention and harm reduction. Identify the problem and deal with it before it gets out of hand. Pharmaceuticals are part of the addiction problem, too.
3. Change the attitude towards treatment. Healing is a wholistic process, James explains, first it's necessary to clean up the body with medicinal detox, then focus on the mind and spirit through therapeutic detox.
4. Change the method of treatment. Currently, addicts are treated for 30 or 60 days and then left to their own devices, but what's really needed is a two year program with follow up. There's currently no tracking system in place - after the 30 or 60 days people are simply let go without any, or with very little, follow up.

James is very thankful for the services that were available when he was ready to get his life together, and his personal experience has taught him that there's so much more that can be done. "I live with sclerosis of the liver, I was a severe alcoholic, but I didn't know about it until two years after I detoxed because I was waiting for a specialist."

He's been there, he cares, and he's been putting together an alternative treatment proposal for the past three years with assistance from researchers at the University of Victoria. "There's no reason addicts can't get help," James believes, "but just throwing money at it isn't the solution." The Minister of Health has told James 'they're working on it,' but James is concerned that the bureaucratic 'suits' don't really understand what it's about. "They're just guessing, their programs don't have adequate research, they're knowing without knowing. This isn't just an opinion, this is my life. I have the evidence."

James remembers "the Alano Club saved my life, it really did," and now he wants to help save the lives of others. There's no doubt our community is enriched with his presence. Who else is out there, lost and frustrated and afraid, and where will they go when they choose to embrace life?

Currently investigating the medicinal properties of cannabis, advocating as an 'anti-bad-law activist,' James can be found at the Cannabis Buyer's Club Sundays 12-6, Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays 11-6 - 381-4220, <http://hempology.com>.



NEW to Victoria ... Free Family and Immigration Legal Clinic

Are you a low income person who needs legal help, doesn't qualify for legal aid, and can't afford a lawyer?

You're in luck. The Western Canada Society to Access Justice has added Victoria to its list of 48 clinics, working in partnership with the Inter-Cultural Association of Greater Victoria.

Victoria's clinic is located at 930 Balmoral Avenue. Call 250-388-4728 or toll free 1-877-762-6664 to make a free half hour appointment (Thursdays, between 12 and 2) with a qualified family or immigration volunteer lawyer.

If you're a lawyer who'd like to help, or if you'd like to make a cash donation, please feel free to call.

For more information: [www.accessjustice.ca](http://www.accessjustice.ca)



### A World in Conflict - A Mind in Confusion

Sitting here today looking out my window, my mind is awash with conflict. Fragments of recent world events coursing though my brain.

It's turning to Spring here in Canada. Flowers are beginning to bloom and trees have new buds on them. A season of fresh hope and new beginnings.

Meanwhile, on the other side of the world, Insurgents in Iraq continue to kill all who do not agree with their political views.

Close to home, I recently received an email from a friend of mine who is home for a few weeks after spending the past few months in Afghanistan, helping to set up fair elections over there. He was wondering if I could look around my house and put a box together with any old winter boots, coats or jackets he could give to the children of Afghanistan when he returns in a few weeks. I went into my basement and within moments had a box ready to go. I also threw in a few stuffed toys and dolls. My kids have hundreds of them. They'll never miss them but they might bring a smile or some warmth to an Afghan child.

There seems to be no end in sight to this world full of conflict. No matter how much we try to shelter ourselves from it, it touches all of us in one form or another. You can't escape it. You can't ignore it. The sheer repetitiveness of world events eventually penetrates your thin internal defensive barrier and permeates into your conscience. Then it dawns on you. You are a part of these events too. Through degrees of separation, even though you've desperately tried to avoid them or block them out, they've managed to reach in and pull you toward reality. Your world has involved you in it, in spite of your valiant attempts at obliviousness.

I'm certain I'm not the first person to go through this type of transition. On the contrary I may be one of the last. It seems everyone has been touched in some way by world events the past few years. Especially since 911. The world has not been the same since and quite frankly I don't think it will ever be the same again. The laws of the universe demand that for every action, there is an equal or opposite reaction. Energy begets energy. There is so much happening within every corner of this little blue planet, so many actions and reactions, no one person could possibly conceive, nor anticipate them all or what reactions they will bring. It's a constant, chaotic process, producing continuous, chaotic, events.

I offer no solutions, merely observations; or perhaps some form of a written self-defensive, purging mechanism, to help myself cope with it all.

I'll give that box of clothes to my friend. He'll pass them along to poor children in a war torn, cold corner of the world. Strangely, my donation does not make me feel generous, nor warm and fuzzy today. It makes me feel scared and ashamed.

Robert K. McCourty, Sooke



Louise Rose and the Open Door Choir  
sing-along Wednesdays, 11 - noon

### CommunityPipe: Putting the Web to Work for Victoria Activists

The Internet has changed the way we change the world. Email lists and instant messaging give activists new ways to strategize and call each other to action at a moment's notice. News websites like Indymedia.org and PEJ.org offer serious alternatives to mainstream media spin, allowing citizens worldwide to tell their stories, in their words.

But small grassroots groups face large barriers to using the web: little cash, limited time, and competing priorities mean that most groups don't use the web to its full potential, or don't use it at all.

Dan Bashaw has watched the typical lifecycle of a small group website. "Much of the work of social change is carried out by volunteer groups of 5-20 members, working without funds or assets of any kind, and with limited Internet skills. These groups can't afford web hosting fees, and don't have time to maintain a site. The groups either have no web site, or a single activist spends several hours a month maintaining a web site by hand, which then 'cobwebs' as soon as the activist burns out."

After working for several years on different activist web projects, Dan realized that the underlying problems – web tools are too complicated, too technical, and do not solve the right problems – could be fixed. Rather than grassroots groups trying to adapt to available web publishing tools, new tools needed to be developed with activist communities in mind from the start.

This was the beginning of the CommunityPipe concept. In March 2004 Dan brought fellow web activist Mary Conquest on board to help develop and deliver better web tools for Victoria activists.

Their reasoning went like this: activists have little money, so they need free hosting -- with no advertising. Activists have better things to do than learn HTML code, so they need an easy way to build and update their site. Activists need to coordinate, so they need events calendars and organizing tools shared by all the groups in the community.

In techno-speak, CommunityPipe is an open-source-based Content Management System that has been altered to accommodate activist groups by providing modules relevant to their work. In plain English, CommunityPipe is a free community-minded web publishing tool.

Activist groups can publish their articles and update the site on their own using any web browser. The process is simple enough that even non-techies can update website content; CommunityPipe provides all the training and tools groups need to create a sustainable web presence. A shared events calendar and other coordinating tools help groups expand their collaboration with each other.

In its test phase, CommunityPipe hosted web sites for Street Newz and the Victoria Central America Support Committee.

"I'd been trying to find time to build a Street Newz website when Dan and CommunityPipe magically appeared. I really appreciate all he's done to help us gain a presence on the internet. It's great that folks can contribute their thoughts in the Reader's Comments section, and I can publish articles in between Street Newzes."

CommunityPipe is now looking for other groups who would like to create their own web presence. Organizations that have become discouraged by the expense and difficulty of maintaining their site and those that currently have no web site and no capability of starting one are ideal candidates for the next phase of CommunityPipe's development.

Groups that are satisfied with their existing web site can still have a 'Gateway' page in CommunityPipe, which will connect their site to the other activist groups, and allow them to use the shared events calendar and other tools currently being developed.

Want to learn more? CommunityPipe can be contacted at [communitypipe@telus.net](mailto:communitypipe@telus.net), or through our central web site at [www.communitypipe.org](http://www.communitypipe.org).

#### Web Sites Mentioned:

CommunityPipe: <http://www.communitypipe.org>  
Indymedia: <http://victoria.indymedia.org>  
PEJ Newswire: <http://pej.org>  
Street Newz: <http://streetnewz.communitypipe.org>  
CASC: <http://casc.communitypipe.org>



### Scott and Darcy at the U of Victoria Food Bank

The UVSS is proud to host a comprehensive food hamper system through our emergency food bank, located in the basement of the SUB. The bank is run by volunteers and offers single and family food hampers for up to 2 weeks. Students can drop by during posted drop-in hours or make an appointment to pick up a hamper.

All services are 100% confidential and all UVic students are welcome to take advantage of this service. Donations are always welcome and volunteers are always needed. Info: 721-8369, [foodbank@uvss.uvic.ca](mailto:foodbank@uvss.uvic.ca)





### Mayor Alan Lowe reads the Street Newz!

Did you know that Mayor Alan Lowe has recently joined other mayors to sign a document requesting that national governments “initiate negotiations on the achievement and maintenance of a nuclear-weapon-free world”? Mary-Wynne Ashford, MD, PhD, and former president of the Nobel Peace Prize-winning organization International Physicians for the Prevention of Nuclear, presented Alan with the document. “He was delighted to sign it,” she reported.

I had a chance to talk with Alan recently, and thanked him for signing. He told me “Canada is a country that is very much for peace, and we need to have it known that's what we support.” I was also pleased to hear Alan's enthusiasm for the Street Newz. “The vendors are great people, very friendly.” And, I asked him a couple of questions.

1.What do you think of the Safe Streets Act? His response: “The City of Victoria have not supported it. We felt we have enough tools to deal with aggressive panhandling. Now it's in place we have to look at it, but we're not telling officers to deal with panhandlers. I think Victoria's police have a good relationship with panhandlers, but I have to consider complaints from local businesses.”

2.What do you think of Esquimalt's changing bylaws? Alan shrugged, and said “You can't overrule the Charter of Rights, and you can't throw people in jail for not paying their tickets. I do have a heart for those in need whether it's drug addictions or mental illness.”

3.What about housing? Alan's working in cooperation with the CRD, with a Provincial Task Force, and with the City - “I hope to be able to make a dent in the issue of housing,” he said.

4. What's the Cultural Capital Award about? Alan enthusiastically responded “about two months ago we were awarded that, for 2005, and we received a half million plus another half million later to put on cultural events in the city throughout the year.” Funds are earmarked for an interpretive walkway along the upper causeway (the lower causeway is owned by the feds and has recently been turned over to their Harbour Authority), and various other projects.

Philosophically, Alan favours a centralized and amalgamated City authority rather than the disparate regions that currently comprise the CRD which, he says, is inefficient because it's “staff driven.” I told him I'm no expert in how to make government more effective and efficient, I just hope he doesn't turn into another King.

A week after my visit with Alan, I spent some time with Councillor Charlayne Thornton-Joe who happened to be acting as Deputy Mayor and was raffling off the Mayor's parking space to the staff for adisable kids' charity. “The highest staff bidder by 3 o'clock won the prime spot for the following week.

Charlayne is also a fan of the Street Newz. She talks about it at meetings, on the radio, and any other times when there's a chance to introduce it to folk. “I really think it's a great tool for people on the street, and for people who don't understand the issues whether it's poverty or addiction...”

Charlayne is, as Alan described her, the “downtown liasion. Charlayne's very compassionate and caring.” Self-described as “a connector,” she makes sure to “keep Alan updated about what's going on” in the inner city. She's also concerned about housing, and pleased about Council's recent decision to make illegal suites legal - if they comply with safety codes. “They provide affordable, safe, rental housing.”

This is Charlayne's first try at politics. “I saw issues that I wanted to help with downtown.” Many remember when she got street folks in out of the cold a couple of winters ago, but they may not know the full story. “I couldn't sleep, it was 2:30 in the morning , Charlayne recalls.” She sent email to as many people as she could, and got a call from police officer Rick Anthony in the morning. At 11 she called the Mayor with their ideas, and by 4 o'clock they were at Silver Threads preparing the overnight shelter. I asked if she's going to run for re-election this year and she said she's not sure, it depends on the day. Some days are pretty stressful.

Mayor Alan Lowe is definitely running for re-election. In case you don't know, he has an “Open Door” policy on the 3rd Friday of each month (except December) beginning at 9:00 am until 11:30 am. It's a ‘first come-first serve’ deal, 10 minutes each.

## Tsunamis Come and Go

by R.G. O'Neill

The latest Tsunami wave has come and gone taking with it as many as 300,000 humans with its ending. Now comes the re-building of lives and habitats of those who survived.

In the furious pace of our age we hardly have time to extend our empathy and support. Then it's back to the politics of who is top dog internationally, who gets the oil, and who pays the price. Into this year 2005 our consciousness has been disturbed as we realize nature's fury almost equals that of our species in time of war. We may stand on the rim of an extinct volcano pondering the colossal explosive force that caused such a natural phenomenon. Even our most terrible weapons of destruction pale beside the power that can rise from within this planet Earth.

Our scientists support international warning devices re-the future shifting of the Earth's crusts and future tidal waves. Still the mass populations soon roll up their sleeves to work at making the most out of our dwindling reserves: “Give us this day our daily bread.” Each day there are a host of terrors awaiting the first step we take off the chosen path, so we pray each night that we will still be able to give thanks the next sunset. Even so our daily routines are not guaranteed, for even stepping off the curbside with the pedestrian signal at “Go” could be our last.

Is this a dismal philosophy? Could be. But if the Power is that of the people, then the consequences for the old time brokers of profit for the minority could be ended. That threat is the most serious they could entertain in their lifetime. The definition of terror depends on a point of view. The ordinary workers worldwide could be rid of the threat that has been there since birth - the risk of poverty, malnutrition, disease, and oppression. This is the greatest terror faced by the masses, as they slave to make each day at least tolerable.

Each obstacle encountered and overcome is preparation and conditioning for the next.

“Democracy” is a word spoken by the privileged classes, as a tool to keep the underdogs in place. Freedom from oppression means “from each according to ability, and to each according to need.” But if that day arrives then equality in the very real sense is what will replace the biased ontology the favoured, profitable nations dub “Democratic.”

Each bias comes from the things we do from dawn to dusk, how we survive day to day. The right to exist in an equal society, where all children, all seniors, all workers' families do not simply survive, but live a fulfilled, profound, optimistic lifetime, where health, work, & education helps contribute to our society at large. So we all receive “according to need” and what we do is to the “best of our ability.” Only then can we put aside the bias that turns one class, one nation, one race, against another. We can be prepared for the adversary of Natural catastrophe much more so when we do not cause even more loss of life in our wars upon each other.

Peace is the greatest need for all humanity. War in the name of Democracy is just as insidious as war. Tsunamis come and go, but war we can predictably end. If we can spend hundreds of millions on relief, surely we can spend equal amounts and more promoting Peace. If in the last World War we lost 57 million of the population, imagine the cost to rebuild the infrastructure. What was and is being given to relieve the burden of the Tsunami disaster pales into insignificance. Our priorities need re-examining and Peace the priority. If not, we could, in another worldwide conflict with the thousands of nuclear devices and weapons, end life as we have come to understand it.



I have just enjoyed my second Street Newz and would like to help your effort with a donation. I am a 79 year OAP who remembers the 1930s depression when so many were unemployed, hungry, and homeless. I wish you well with affection, & encourage you to continue your work as you publicize the inequities in our society. Sincerely, GF.

Dear Janine Bandcroft, I have learned from my cousin and another friend of the work you are doing and I commend you and thank you for that service to the needy in the community. I read and was much interested in your last newsletter. I would appreciate receiving them in the future. Dorothea Wiens

i am looking for an group that is established and interested in creating homeless camps in clearcuts. i have been lobbying the government this idea for sometime. this is the most positive response i have had to date. i know it is in no way a real supportive letter, but mostly they ignore me.

i have detailed my ideas to how to make and sustain these camps and there response show s me they have some interest.

if you know some organization that may be passionate about such an idea please let me know.

blessings, ron,  
spiralmonkey@hotmail.com

**The Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives:**

<http://policyalternatives.ca>



The City of Victoria has contracted Rock Solid to beautify utility boxes in the downtown. Rock Solid has also artified one in Esquimalt, and nine on Granville Street in downtown Vancouver. Here, Aden & Lise work cooperatively to apply the art decal.

Community Calendar

Street Newz offers no guarantees that following information is accurate, or that the events will actually occur as listed.  
Contact events@pej.org with corrections, additions, event reviews, or to receive a free weekly email listing of peace, earth, and justice events.

Mondays	Movie Monday	by donation	595-FLIC or www.islandnet.com/mm
Alt Mondays	Victoria Peace Coalition	-	dolc1a@islandnet.com
Alt. Mondays	Communities Solidarity Coalition	-	www.communities-solidarity.org, info@communities-solidarity.org
Tuesdays	THE MILK JUGernauts	-	(250) 479-3374 - spiltmilk@centralmail.com - www.spiltmilkcomedy.com
Tuesdays	Ongoing meditation group	awakening, planetary healing, transformation.	7:30-9 pm. Info: 598-4303, celestialleo@hotmail.com.
Wednesdays	Falun Gong.	faluninfo.net. Fernwood Community Association, 1923 Fernwood.	Victoria. 5-7 p.m. Info: (250)386-8805 .
Wednesdays	Peace Vigils at the Legislature	-	7:00 - 8:00 pm - Everyone Welcome!
Wednesdays	SOLID (Society of Living Intravenous Drugusers)	except welfare day,	7:00-9:00 pm, 1947 Cook St. \$3 bus fare reimbursed
Thurs (1st&3rd)	Talking Tables,	Story telling and story listening opportunity.	Sidewalk Cafe, Fairfield Plaza, 7.30 - 9 info: 478 9795,davidwolsk@shaw.ca
Friday nights	Coffeehouse discussion group	7:30 pm JJ's coffeehouse in Brentwood Bay	7:30 pm Info: sue_stroud@hotmail.com
Fourth Fridays	Café Simpatico,	Activist coffeehouse,1923 Fernwood.	Doors at 7 pm. casc@telus.net , 598-7690, communitypipe.org
Saturdays	Plastic Recycling	-	Accepting soft & hard plastics: styrofoam blocks & chips, plastic bags, and rigid plastics. Info: 382-4604.
Sundays	Newcomer Youth Group,	12-18 yr immigrants, refugees, int'l student youth,	1 -3 pm, @ICA-930 Balmoral. Info youth@icavictoria.org
Last Sundays	Spilt Milk Family Fun Series	-	children's comic improv. Info: (250) 479-3374, spiltmilk@centralmail.com, www.spiltmilkcomedy.com
Alt. Sundays	Sierra Club Nature Outings	-	Call Nikko for more details at 386-5255 x241, www.sierraclub.ca/bc
Sundays	Victoria Folk Music Society	7:30pm,	Norway House www.pacificcoast.net/~vfms or 413-3213, 24 hrs.
Monthly	Faith in Action-	a multi-faith coalition to put more heart into BC's income assistance.	www.bcfaitthinaction.ca
To Apr 22	61st session of the UN Commission on Human Rights	-	Geneva Info: http://www.humanrights-usa.net/
April 1st	Second annual Fossil Fools Day !	Info: www.energyaction.net/main/index.php, www.globalexchange.org/campaigns/oil/fossilfoolsday.html	
April 1st	Race, Gender and the Prison-Industrial Complex	3:00 - 5:00 p.m. UVics Harry Hickman Bldg., Rm 105 (formerly CIT Bldg.)	Info: scvipirg@uvic.ca
April 1st-3rd	Provincial Conference	Organizers: Lower Mainland Social Justice Coalition + Communities Solidarity Coalition	Info: plyons@vcn.bc.ca
Apr 2nd	Composting Basics - Workshop	Free	Pre-register: 386-WORM, info@compost.bc.ca, www.compost.bc.ca
April 3rd	EcoFeminist Carol J. Adams & The Sexual Politics of Meat	7 pm, Rm 158, UVic Fraser (Law) Bldg.	Info: www.law.uvic.ca/saldf
April 3rd-10th	Public Hearings - Committee on Citizenship & Immigration Victoria & Vancouver	Info: cimm@parl.gc.ca -	
April 4th	International Year of Microcredit	7 pm, First Met United, 932 Balmoral.	Info: www.oikocredit.org
April 4th	Social Enterprise: Blending Business and Social Justice	10-11:30 am Clearihue D267 @ UVic	Info: http://events.uvic.ca
April 5th	We Deserve Better- A look at changes in Seniors Health Care	JB United Church, 511 Michigan St,	1:30 -3:30 pm or 7-9pm Info: linda@islandnet.com
April 5th	The UVic Sustainability Project	-	Special General Meeting 12:30 - 2:30 pm SUB 110B Contact: uvsp@uvic.ca - 721-7355 - http://uvsp.uvic.ca - SUB B007
April 5th	OPEN CINEMA: In The Shadow of Gold Mountain and Head Tax	7pm, Hermann's Jazz Club, 753 View	mandy@opencinema.ca (250) 882-7441
April 6th	TOUGH DECISIONS: Can we afford the BC we want?	7 to 9 pm, Parksville Community Center	Info: http://www.3570.cupe.ca/www/join_us_in_parksvill
April 6th	Art Auction-	Proceeds to Rock Solid Fdn youth violence prevention programs.	Bravo-1218 Wharf St Info: 386.7625, www.rocksolid.bc.ca
April 7th	(tentative) Public Forum About Poverty.	7:00 pm, Hall of St. John the Divine,	www.bcfaitthinaction.ca or phone 383-7169
April 8th	fundraiser organized by the Victoria Tre Arrow Defense Committee:	solstice cafe	1900h - 2130h www.trearrow.org/
April 9th	No-till Veggie Prod.-Compost Club Lecture	2-4pm Memb, free; Non, \$10 Pre-reg:	386-WORM, info@compost.bc.ca, www.compost.bc.ca
April 9th	The Impromaniacs Present: The Emperor's New Script	7:30 & 9:30 pm FCA (1923 Fernwood).	Info: media@impromaniacs.com, 388 3658.
April 9th.	"The China Experience" by Ami Muranetz	-	photos & stories from the Orient. 8pm. Info: thefifty_fifty@hotmail.com, thefiftyfifty.org
April 10th	8th Annual Corporate Golden Piggy Awards	2pm Roxy Theatre, 2657 Quadra St.	Info: 388-4168 laughs, by donation
April 13-22	The trial of the "Hastings Seven,"	Vancouver. Info: jessica@resist.ca.,	http://resist.ca/~vpdbrutality, www.pivotlegal.org
April 15	National Aboriginal Holocaust Memorial Day		
April 16th	Organic Lawn Care Workshop	2-4 pm-Members,free; Non-members, \$10 Pre-reg:	386-WORM, info@compost.bc.ca, www.compost.bc.ca
April 16	PUENTE's Long Ago and Far Away ,	1983 Fairfield 2-3:30 pm Info: 592-4367, 721-5828,	pts@victoria.tc.ca, www.puentetheatre.ca
April 17th	(tentative): Vegetarian dietician	Vesanto Melina Info: viva@islandveg.com or Veg@MoreThanSolutions.com	
April 18, 19, 20	Tre Arrow's extradition hearings,	Vancouver. Info: www.trearrow.org/	
April 18-22nd	TRANSCEND Peace University (TPU),	Romania, online. Info: www.transcend.org	
April 19th	Friends of the Nemaiah Valley	Music, photography, art auction Laurel Point Inn	7 pm Info: info@fonv.ca www.fonv.ca
April 22-24	2nd Annual Exopolitics Expo,	Washington, DC Info: Disclosure2003@aol.com,	www.exopolitics.com, www.peaceinspace.com
April 22nd	Earth Day		
April 27th	May Day: Then and Now	-	Discussion & Debate 7-9 pm, FCA Info: BWilson@heu.org
Late April.	fifty fifty arts collective Rock Lottery	-	Various musicians create three to five songsand perform for an audience. http://thefiftyfifty.org
Apr 28-May 1st	Women's Rights & Freedoms: 20 Years in Equality	-	www.westcoastleaf.org; 604-684-8772, 1 -866-737-7716 conference@westcoastleaf.org
May 1st	May Day Street Party	Centennial Square, 1pm; FCA 4pm,	Info: BWilson@heu.org
May 3rd & 7th	Canadian Community Economic Development Network (CCEDNet) Nat'I Conference	Info: 1-877-202-2269,	info@ccednet-rcdec.ca
May 7th	Gardening for Fragrance-Comp. Club Lecture	2-4pm: Members, free; Non-members, \$10 Pre-reg:	386-WORM, info@compost.bc.ca, www.compost.bc.ca
May 7th	Composting Basics - Workshop	Free	Pre-register: 386-WORM, info@compost.bc.ca, www.compost.bc.ca
May 14th	Plant Sale	Free admission	Pre-register: 386-WORM, info@compost.bc.ca, www.compost.bc.ca
May 16-Sept 2	Permaculture Design & Org. Food Prod Skills	-	OUR ECOVILLAGE, Shawnigan Lk, our@pacificcoast.net, (250) 743-3067, ourecovillage.org
May 17	Election Day in British Columbia,	Info: www.elections.bc.ca; stvforbc.com, bc-stv.ca,	www.fairvotingbc.com, citizensassembly.bc.ca.
May 17-20th	National Homeless Conf,	Toronto, www.homelessconference.ca/home/index_en.html,	416-736-2100 ext. 40025, cch@edu.yorku.ca
May 28th	Beneficial Insects Workshop ,	2-4 pm Members, \$9; Non-members, \$10 Pre-reg:	386-WORM, info@compost.bc.ca, www.compost.bc.ca
May 28th	The Third Annual Noise! Festival.	Info: http://industrial.org/prmartyr.html	
May 30th	Art Show for Artists With Disabilities	submissions due date	Info: www.mapcl.org/Art-Show/Art-Show.html
May 30-June 5	Bike to Work Week	Info: Linda Saunders, 920-5775	Linda Saunders <linda@biketoworkvictoria.ca>
June 4th	Composting Basics - Workshop	Free	Pre-register: 386-WORM, info@compost.bc.ca, www.compost.bc.ca

Welfare Resource Guide for Women (2nd Edition) information for women about BC's welfare system, to help women apply for welfare, disability, and child benefits.  
www.vsw.ca, womencentre@vsw.ca, 604-255-6554.

Islands Spirit Rising began in late March - many are standing together to challenge Weyerhaeuser sale of TFL to Brascan.  
www.haidanation.ca/islands/islands.html cblake@haidagwaii.net



Food Banks and Meals

**9-10 CLUB (ST. ANDREW'S SOUP KITCHEN)**  
740 View St. Victoria, B.C. V8W 1J8 ph: 388-5571 8 - 10am seven days a week  
Church-run club providing daily meals on a drop-in basis.

**ANAWIM COMPANION SOCIETY**  
973 Caledonia Street Victoria B.C. V8T 1E7 phone: 382-0283  
Mon, Tues, Thurs 10am - 5 pm, Weds, Fri 10am-8pm, Sat 10am- 4pm  
Laundry, showers, meals, clothing, limited housing spaces.

**COMMUNITY FOOD BANK**  
4-697 Goldstream Avenue, Victoria, B.C., V9B 2X2 phone: 474-4443  
Tues, Weds: 10am – 3pm, Closed last week of month

**FOOD NOT BOMBS** - a collectively run (non-hierarchical) food kitchen. Ph: 383-5144,  
Free vegetarian serving Sundays, 3 pm - Harris Green (Pandora & Vancouver)  
Bring clean margarine, tofu containers for bowls, bags for produce.  
Info: free-spirit@shaw.ca, miagirl95@yahoo.com, http://resist.ca/~fmb-victoria

**FREE COMMUNITY LUNCH**  
Esquimalt United Church Hall, Lyall St., just past Admirals Rd.  
Tuesdays and Thursdays - 12 noon – 1:15 pm

**FRUIT AND VEGGIE BOX**  
C/o Blanshard Community Centre phone: 388-7696  
James Bay Community Project phone: 388-7844  
WorkLink Employment Society phone: 478-9525  
Victoria Native Friendship Centre phone: 384-3211  
Wholesale prices, various size boxes. Pay first, pick up following wk.

**JAMES BAY COMMUNITY SCHOOL**  
140 Oswego Street, Victoria, B.C. V8V 2B1 phone: 389-1470  
-Seniors Dinners on Tuesdays and Thursdays at 5 PM - \$5.75  
-Community Dinners Weds, approx. every other mth, usually \$4 & \$2 /12 & under.  
Tickets must be purchased at the centre in advance  
-Community school cafe open Mon - Fri 11:45 am -12:30 pm. \$3.25 & child 2.75.

**MEALS ON WHEELS**  
9751-3<sup>rd</sup> st. Sidney, B.C., V8L 3A5 phone: 655-9222  
For residents of Greater Victoria who, because of age, disability or illness, are unable  
to prepare an adequate meal for themselves, have inadequate cooking facilities, have  
no one to prepare meals, or have health and social needs. Referrals from doctors,  
health & Social Services agencies, concerned friends, family, or personal requests.  
Current cost of meals- \$6.00. In addition to nutritional benefits, some social interaction.

**MUSTARD SEED STREET CHURCH**www.mustardseed.ca  
625 Queens Avenue, Victoria, B.C., V8T 1L9 phone: 953-1575  
Outreach: Mon-Fri 8am-4pm, Food bank: M,T, W, Th 9-11:45am, 12:30-2:00 pm  
M, W, F - Family Hampers, Th - Singles & Couples w/out children.  
Food bank is closed the week following welfare cheque day. Drop in for food,  
friendship, counseling, and crisis intervention. Food hampers available. One visit/mth.

**OPEN DOOR SOCIETY**  
935 Pandora St, Victoria B.C., V8V 3P4 phone: 385-2454  
Mon-Fri: 10am-12pm, 2-4pm, Sat&Sun: 8am-12pm, 1-3:30 pm. Free sandwiches,  
doughnuts, coffee, tea, bread, sometimes produce, clothing room, games room,  
counseling & referrals.

**ST. VINCENT DE PAUL SOCIETY**  
828 View Street, Victoria B.C. V8W 1K2 phone: 382-0712  
9 am-12:30 pm, 1:30 pm-4:30 pm Mon-Friday, Tues aft for Women  
Must be 19 yrs, unless referred by parents, ASK, or Soc Services.  
Food, clothing, household items. Home visits, food vouchers for parents w/children.

**SAINT SAVIOUR'S KITCHEN**  
310 Henry Street, Church Hall (VicWest) phone: 384-8773  
Rainbow Kitchen for women and children, Weds and Fris, 12 noon – 1:30 pm

**SALVATION ARMY**, Family Services and Counselling (singles, too)  
2695 Quadra, at Hillside ph: 386-8521 Monday – Friday, 9 am – 3:30 pm  
Emergency food hampers, clothing & small housewares vouchers.

**SIKH TEMPLE**  
Blackwood at Topaz (towards summit park), enter right side door  
Every Sunday at noon - Free food serving, lentil dahl and chapatis, etc.

**STREETLINK EMERGENCY SHELTER**  
1634 Store St., Victoria, B.C. V8W 1S2 ph: 384-3634, office 383-1951  
Free dinner 7 days a week, 3 pm for meal ticket, serving at 3:30

**ST. JOHN THE DIVINE**  
1611 Quadra St., Victoria, B.C., V8W 2L5 phone: 383 7169.  
Food bank open Tuesdays & Fridays, 10 am-noon, in church basement. (Closed Friday  
and Tuesday after Welfare Wednesday, and Tu esdays after Monday stat.)

**UPPER ROOM SOCIETY**  
919 Pandora Avenue, Victoria, B.C., V8V 3P4 phone: 388-7112  
Office Hrs: Mon-Fri 9am-4pm Meals: Mon-Sat 12-1pm, 4-5:30 pm  
Meal pass costs \$26 a month, or \$1 at the door.

**Good Food Box Program** - Duncan area - *where healthy eating is an act of community.* 250-746-4204, www.providence.bc.ca, mlthomson@uniserve.com

**Central Baptist's Breakfast Club** (thanks to Robin Kingsley for this information)

**First Saturday:** Christ Church Cathedral, 912 Vancouver St., 7:45-9:30 am  
coffee, tea, orange juice, eggs & hash browns, also ham

**Second Saturday:** St. Andrew's Presbyterian Hall, 680 Courtney St, 8-10 am  
coffee, tea, pancakes and ham, no eggs

**Third Saturday:** Glad Tidings Pentecostal Church Hall, 1800 Quadra St. 8-10 am  
coffee, tea, pancakes, eggs, ham

**Fourth Saturday:** Central Baptist Church, 833 Pandora, 8-10 am; 385-7786  
coffee, tea, pancakes, eggs, sausage

**Fifth Saturday:** BC Ferry Worker's' Union at St. Andrew's Hall, 8-10 am  
coffee, tea, pancakes and ham, no eggs

Housing Resources

**No Cost for Service, Time Limited Stay**

**Salvation Army** 525 Johnson Street, 384-3396 Emerg men only

**Streetlink** 1634 Store Street, 383-1951

**Sandy Merriman House** 809 Burdett Avenue, 480-1408

**Sobering and Assessment Centre** 1125 Pembroke (at Cook)  
213-4444 24 hr max for people under the influence of substances

**Out of the Rain** (Youth 15-25) 889-1490 Oct - April, various locations

**Kiwanis Youth Shelter** (13-18) 2117 Vancouver St., 386-8282

**Hill House** Women with children 479-3963

**Sooke Transition House** 642-2591 Women with or without children

**Vic. Women's Transition House** 385-6611 Women with or w/out kids

**Cridge Centre for the Family** 1190 Kings Rd 386-7291 Women & kids

**Kiwanis House** for single women 16-29 w/ one child 382-1004

**Margaret Laurence House** 995-0058 Women & kids escaping abuse

**Low Cost Monthly Rentals**

**YWCA Women's Residence**- 880 Courtney Street, 386-7511  
Room \$425/month, stay limited to 3- month max

**Ritz Hotel**- 710 Fort Street, Room \$340- 370/month 381-1868

**Fairfield Hotel** 710 Cormorant St., Room \$340-370/mth 386-1621

**York Hotel** 711 Johnson Street, Room \$395/month 385-2544

**Douglas Hotel** 1450 Douglas Street, Rm without bath \$475  
383-4157 (Mid September – end May only)

**Ocean Island Backpackers** 791 Pandora Avenue Rooms (some with bath)  
385-1788 From \$250-490 (Oct - end of May)

**Turtle Refuge Backpackers** 1608 Quadra Street 386-4471  
\*\* Min. of Human Resources will not issue shelter funds for this \*\*

**Vic. Human Exchange Soc.** 361- 2762, 1-800-691-9366,www.humanx.org.

**Subsidized Housing Contact List**

**BC Housing** 301- 3440 Douglas Street, 475-7550 www.bchousing.org

**Burnside Gorge Community Association** 388-5251

**Cap. Region Housing** 623 Fisgard, 388-6422 www.crd.bc.ca/housing

**Coordinated Housing Registry** 1410 Broad Street 356-2548

**M'Akola Housing Society** 384-1423

**Pacifica Housing Advisory Assoc**, 830 E Pembroke St. 385-2131

**Pandora Youth Apts** 753 Pandora, For 15- 19 yrs, Andrea - 380-2663

**St. Vincent de Paul Soc.** 382-2767 www.svdpvictoria.com/services/

**Victoria Senior Citizen Housing Society** #501-620 View, 384-3434

**Housing Searches on the Internet**

**BC Housing Subsidized Housing List** www.bchousing.org/Housing

**Brown Bros. Property Management** www.brownbros.com

**BC Co-Operative Housing** www.chf.bc.ca/

**Camosun Off Campus Housing List** www.ccss.camosun.bc.ca

**David Burr Property Management** www.davidburr.com/

**UVic Off Campus Housing** www.housing.uvic.ca/offcampus/search.htm

**Some places to call for help**

**Adult Addiction Comm. Treatment Serv:** 228-1250 Quadra, 387-5077

**AIDS Vancouver Island:** 1601 Blanshard St., 384-2366

**Alano Club:** 1402 Broad St, 383-9151

**Alcoholics Anon:** #8, 2020 Douglas, 383-7744 (help), 383-0415 (off)

**Cool-Aid Medical Clinic:** 385-1466

**Cool-Aid Phone Message Service (\$5/mth):** 383-1977

**Foundation of Support of Recovery for Men:** 480-1342

**Outreach Services Methadone Clinic:** 2004 Fernwood Rd., 480-1232

**Research, Education, Evaluation, & Support Prog. (REES):** 595-8619

**Salvation Army Addictions & Rehab Centre:** 525 Johnson, 384-3396

**Soc. of Living Intravenous Drugusers:** 7-9 pm Wednesdays, 1947 Cook

**Substance Information LINK:** www.silink.ca

**Victoria Native Friendship Centre:** 610 Johnson Street, 384-3211

**Victoria Sobering & Assessment Centre:** 1125 Pembroke, 213-4444

**TOGETHER AGAINST POVERTY SOCIETY**

TAPS advocates help people in the Victoria area with the following:

- disability benefits applications and appeals
- social assistance (welfare)
- EI applications and appeals
- landlord/tenant disputes

(250) 361-3521  
www2.povnet.org/taps

# Bodhi's Path ... a serial ... episode five ...



*Robert Lightheart Jones is a universalist Friend who explores the many ways beings express the great dance of life of which we are but a small part. He's recently settled into what he hopes is a new home (subsidized housing on the edge of the 'burbs). Robert invites reaction and storyline suggestions c/o streetnewz@cedco.bc.ca.*

The rains came a week later and Bodhi was looking for Zip at the Sallyanne- soup- sandwich- boutique and over their best, he found him. Bodhi said he would welcome him at his place for a few days til his things dried out again. He was sure that the house was warmer than the grave yard he'd called home for the past weeks. He'd settled right in teaching Bodhi some of the finer points of scrounging and scavenging.

His favourite little gift from Zip was a tin robot from the fifties he called, 'One-trick-Bob'. He sat on the shelf above the drawing board. and its job was to pass his favourite drawing pencils at touch of a finger. Then he did his one incredibly noisy ceremony: he lit up his red eyes, shuffled forward, pencil in his willing claw and fell off the shelf with a clank. It took ten winds of his key to be prepared for duty again. If Bodhi turned him to the wall he went through a series of maze busting trial-and-error bump /turns to again get to the lover's leap. After a time he began to get into the Zen of the thing and he attained his own small measure of satori.

Zip came and went day to day but always found a way to contribute a few veggies for the bottomless stew pot. Only in the nastiest weather did he sleep on the floor foamy. Bodhi knew the veggies were dumpster gleanings but boiling killed everything and converted that which was not quite dead to protein. Or so Zip said. Everyone in the house was happy and healthy.

The rainy season got to Albert. It was a classic case seasonal affective syndrome, as he explained to anyone who was still listening. Bodhi had said to Freyja Albert's problem was not S. A.D.S. but R.P.N. Royal Pain in the Ass. The only remedy beyond Freyja's solution of disappearing to the Caribbean, as Albert saw it, was to replace every bulb in the house to blindingly powerful full spectrum lights.

When Bodhi got home from delivering a layout, he saw Albert upon the high ladder. Zip was at the bottom steadying it and passing tools. There was a mound of boxes and wiring. A huge 20 switch box was standing against Bodhi's drawing table. "No way you'd get me up there." The peak of the A frame was at least twenty feet. "Better you than me, Albert. By rights you should have scaffolding for that kind of job. No compensation, no risks thank you. You shouldn't be doing it 'hot wire' either. You sure you don't want to come down and shut down the breaker box?" Zip looked up, "Aren't you afraid of heights, Albert?"

"I was till I found out what it'd cost to get somebody else to do this!. Now, shut up and pass me the Robertson screw driver. No not that one, Zip the !@#%\$ ing red handled one." Albert was installing a second strip of heavy duty track lights. Bare wires hung exposed inches from him. Bodhi could not look and reviewed in his mind what he knew about first aid from falls and shocks. Damn little. Some CPR, boy scout stuff really. On the order of doing your duty and helping old ladies across streets whether they wanted to or not. Earnestness and prayers were okay but would not pull Albert through as well as his trusty connection to 911.

"There's enough candle power in those boxes to start a hydroponic grow -op... Bodhi muttered. Zip was making small gestures to silence this line of speculation. "Zip's idea?" Zip was trying to appear the wide-eyed innocent to Albert meanwhile. "Yup, says it'll fix me up." Bodhi smiled at him and received a big wink and shrug from Zip.

"Cheaper than a cruise for sure." Zip said mordantly.

"I notice it is in my space not in your 'bat cave' with Freyja? Perhaps it is time to renegotiate our agreement about common spaces again."

"Hey! Hey, don't you go and get starch righteous on me, now. Figured you'd benefit too. We all need a lift and anyway... It's my !@#%\$ing house."

"Seems to me I've heard that before...Do I get my own personal on-off switch? Maybe I could put up my tent for those days when I want to feel 'sad'. With that many lights I will probably crave a bit of darkness now and then. There is, of course, the breaker box... Did you notice that it can power twenty discreet items, our current one has four."

Again Zip was making fluttery motions with his fingers punctuated with pleading looks of dismay every time Bodhi twitted too close to his scam.

"Zip says if we put in full heavy duty wiring package now, we won't have to beef it up later. His take is that it is inadequate for a building this size anyway. He says it'll pay for itself in the long run. .... Sounded reasonable to me, so that's what I'm doin' okay?"

Bodhi could hardly keep from breaking into laughter. He struggled to keep a poker face. He asked how they would control the heat from all those lights.

"Zip says he knows from experience what to do ... We just put in a big exhaust fan where the sky light is now since we won't be needing that... Act as a de-humidifier in the wet."

"Seems to me you could run a sizable operation with that box. Maybe you'd need your own auxiliary plant though. Knock out the whole neighbourhood once it's up ... What do you think, Zip?"

"I've done some reading on that very thing. Oh! I get your drift ... you're not up for this project, are you?"

"Zip, I expect we can expect a business proposition from you in the next week or two. Or am I not on the same wake length ... Ah. A bit too soon to discuss this?" Zip was shifting back and forth on his feet, shucking and nodding ... "Freyja and I might have been brought in on this, don't you think, Albert?" Albert began to slowly descend the ladder...

"Figured building improvements were my...um..decision."

"I'm cooking bouillabaisse for dinner so we will be able to talk over some good food...I take it Zip you are.... free for the evening?" Zip seemed to have some mixed feelings on the matter.

Freyja came through the back door taking off her gum boots in the doorway and paused to look up at the hanging wires in the peak. Then she scanned the heap of electronic components on the floor. "Wiring problems I should know about? Or is something up I missed? Are you sure you should be using that rickety old ladder to ..." The tone of her voice was that of a mother tigress about to cuff something soundly a bit.

"Track lights...For fixing our S.A.D.S....."

"I don't have S.A.D.S. Do you Bodhi? Mr. Zip?" Again Zip was trying to show his interest in his feet. Both of them were shaking their heads in unison fearing the gathering thunder cloud in her voice. Albert seemed oblivious to it. Bodhi shuffled into the kitchen, his bag of vegetables a useful shield. "Bouillabaisse... I'm working on it ... I don't..um..." he muttered, stepping slowly backwards through the passage, his eyes never leaving Freyja. Zip was sliding out that way too when a big hand settled on his skinny shoulder. Albert hugged and patted it but there was iron in the touch.

"Explain our reasoning on this matter, Mr. Zip"

Zip looked forlornly up at the two of them, his eyes darting back and forth. A nervous giggle emanated Bodhi from the kitchen. "Shucks, I told you it's just plain Zip. Well Ma'am, It seemed to us .... that we ... well..."

"Don't call me Ma'am ... but do go on, what did you two have in mind? I really want to understand your thinking on this" Zip's was suddenly dry and his Adam's apple bobbing up and down w as he frantically tried to form coherent thoughts. Beads of sweat were forming on his forehead.

"It was just a suggestion to try out to help his winter blues. ... I admit things got a bit out of hand when we got going on it. But sometimes you forget your troubles if you got something to do... perhaps a project, ... I thought ... a hobby perhaps ... wholesome green leafy tropical indoor plants ... a fountain ... I understand they are all the rage ... trendy ... clean the air ... make lovely restful watery sounds ... what's not to love ... bring the garden indoors ... hmm?" He had given it his best shot but he could see she wasn't buying the package. His voice squeaked to an ungainly end. Albert was trying to distance himself. But Freyja was not about to let this happen.

"Albert, while I would not for a minute attempt to second guess you in pursuit of your bliss, how were you going to pay for this? A little plastic a card? Perpetual Plastic Servitude? P.P.S. seems a whole lot worse than your vaunted S.A.D.S. I think."

"I can see how it is! You and Bodhi don't care about my suffering...only this good man...."

"Spare me that crap! Zip is leading you around by your 'ten-hankie-poor-me's' balls... I suggest you more closely examine his real agenda. I'm surprised that you let him dance you like that."

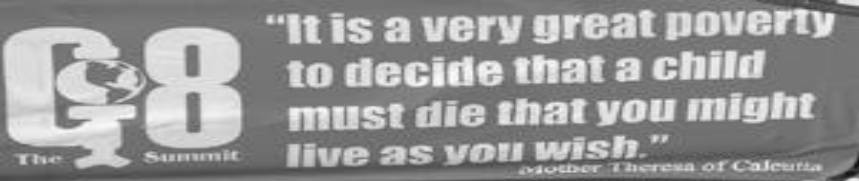
"Hey I'm just a cowboy tryin' to get-along, Ya know? Maybe make a bit on the side, what with ethics shifting as they are these days ...." Albert was beginning to see the utter silliness of it all and his mortuary temple priest's face was twitching on the edge of a gleeful smile.

"Slick talk! You little weasel ... If you want to stick around here, you better not deal friends ....." Albert's voice was in no way menacing, just his usual in-your-face affable thug manner again. Maybe the project was not what he would have chosen in better space but atmosphere of his gloom had somehow lifted. Zip was feeling less like meat in a very big sandwich. He was a keen judge of situations and could navigate through very perilous seas. He was no rookie in the street smarts department.

"So, I take it you don't think the reno will float, eh? How about we scale it down a bit make the shed into a...."

"I think not."

"I have several other ideas that I'm confident you will find more in line with your current ethical scope..." Everyone's eyes rolled towards him in unison. Bodhi exploded with laughter and dropped the big soup pot with a resounding empty clang. Suddenly everyone joined in laughing louder and longer than they had in months. (to be continued ...)



**"When Health is absent, Wisdom cannot reveal itself, Art cannot become manifest, Strength cannot be exerted, Wealth is useless, and Reason is powerless."**  
Herophilus, 300 BCE

hello! i am a former ontarian as of a year ago and lived some very unfriendly winters of cold, wet, and even frost bitten feet coming from a poverty stricken family who could not afford all the warm necessities of the season. i have been reading street newz for the last 6 months and may i suggest to other fellow readers and people looking for donations of socks... (white, plastic bags!!) your feet don't breathe as easily however your feet will thank you for being dry at the end of the night\morning. if you really want them to be dry, put a pair of sox on, then a plastic bag on each foot. wrap it around and tie!! throw those shoes on and go... it works great. thanx for your time and please pass this on to anyone else who has not yet thought of the idea. thanx for your time and consideration christine gorchinsky

TOWARD A NEW VISION FOR SOCIAL ASSISTANCE LEGISLATION (Part III)

Released October 5 2004, by Dr. Elinor Powell - www.heartofconflict.com  
for the Faith in Action Coalition - www.bcfaithinaction.ca



Given the realities related to the real difficulties of living in poverty, why do people in government place additional legislated burdens on marginalized poor people?

How could a government which represents the people of British Columbia, in a time of seeming prosperity, impose so heavy-handed a system on our most vulnerable citizens? A variety of reasons may be given. One reason is the considerable degree of separation of our legislators - and indeed many of our citizenry - from this segment of the population. Many of us are generally quite ignorant about the daily lives of those who live below the poverty line, because their paths are so separate from ours. This separation leads to some general misconceptions about the realities, the circumstances and the motivations of clients who apply to the Ministry for help. It too often results in an ignorance and indifference to their plight, allowing legislation to be enacted which is contrary to principles of justice and compassion by which any self-respecting community will live.

The harsh legislation enacted by the Provincial Government, as summarized [in previous issues], portrays beliefs and attitudes of legislators who have distanced themselves unduly from those for whom they are responsible. They appear to project a belief that the majority of those asking for social assistance are out to cheat the system. This is far from the case, as a recent and costly evaluation of those classified as disabled, carried out by the Ministry, has shown. (This review will be referred to in more detail later in this report.) Labeling all welfare recipients with the tag of those few who seek to defraud the system is a travesty of unfairness, and not borne out by the facts.

Why has this state of affairs been allowed to happen, with so little protest until recently? We are hearing protest in plenty when the Health system breaks down, or the waiting lists grow too long. Let us be honest and acknowledge that, in comparison to the political pressures which are to be encountered in other Ministries, such as Health and Seniors care, the clientele of the Ministry of Human Resources have little clout and less status from which to protest on their own behalf. It is only when the Ministry threatened to limit social assistance to two years out of five that groups such as Faith In Action got started. This most recent action on the part of the Provincial government was seen as an affront to our sense of how a just community ought to look after its marginalized citizens. It finally made us aware that a whole range of constraints were being placed on those seeking social assistance, with a resulting increase in homelessness, food-bank lines, begging and prostitution.

AUDIT OF A MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCES SURVEY:  
an illustration of the social psychologist's findings.

We now return to the BC Human Resources legislation and apply the social psychology research to the findings of a recent audit of that Ministry's actions in conducting a survey of those receiving assistance on the basis of a stated disability.

Just after bringing in the [previously] listed restrictions on social assistance, the Ministry of Human Resources undertook the survey to challenge all those receiving assistance on the basis of disability. They wanted to cut the social assistance rolls by tightening the requirements. They also wished to check whether the system was being abused, whether there were many people receiving assistance who did not qualify for it. Then this survey was itself audited by the Auditor General on the request of an unnamed advocacy group, by people from the general population, and by the Leader of the Opposition.

The Auditor reported that the survey, costing five million dollars, was done in a manner that caused great anxiety to those dependent on social assistance, an already stressed population. The results showed that very few individuals did not fit the Ministry's criteria for disablement. Out of 18,705 cases reviewed, only 46 required re-evaluation and lost their benefits. This is an expenditure of just under \$108,700 per case discovered.

The Auditor General, Wayne Strelioff, concluded that:

"Although the ministry was required by the Act to ensure that people receiving disability benefits met the new eligibility conditions, the ministry moved too quickly in fulfilling this responsibility. It embarked on a fast-track review of all former disability benefit recipients before:

1. Establishing that a significant risk existed of paying benefits to ineligible recipients and
2. Fully investigating other options for confirming eligibility.

"In the end, the ministry did not achieve the significant cost savings it thought it would do by doing the review, as almost all benefit recipients were found to meet the new eligibility requirements. The review also increased anxiety among its disabled clients."

For the Ministry to undertake such a comprehensive and detailed analysis suggests it expected the worst from this targeted, impoverished population. The Ministry's thesis was disproved: the clients designated disabled were truly so and did need help. It must be asserted: this population, as with any other, warrants respect and to be treated with dignity and justice. As a result of this analysis, the Ministry then did change its methods by "testing the appropriateness of the 23-page form it used to gather information. . . , providing assistance to recipients having difficulty with the process and providing transitional benefits to recipients whose disability was cancelled," and other record-keeping measures, according to the Auditor.

Social Distancing from the Perspective of THE LEGISLATOR

The reality of social distancing suggests that legislators, because of their achievements in being elected to responsible positions, will tend to see those seeking social assistance as separate from themselves. Therefore, to counter this

tendency and to act with compassion and justice, legislators must make a special, deliberate and conscious effort to address the equity issues explicit in the social distance attendant on their privileged status. They need to set up processes that place a priority on the *circumstances* surrounding the social and financial location of the welfare seeker as someone living with the exigencies of poverty. This demands that legislators must disregard concepts of the "deserving" and "undeserving" poor, or that the need for social assistance is based on the *character* of the individual, (surely a matter of which no legislator should be the judge.) Instead, those living in poverty are to be seen as human beings like ourselves, but in dire straits, not just statistical numbers without personal identities.

Social Distancing From the Perspective of THE STAFF SOCIAL WORKER

The government's "sticks not carrots" approach in implementing the programs has been particularly stressful on social workers as well as on their clients. Financial Assistance Workers, (now designated as Employment Assistance Workers) are particularly stressed when required to push their clients to seek work, whether or not these clients are capable of that move or not.

Morale is at a low ebb in the Ministry of Human Resources, with high staff burnout and attendant workload management problems. Many workers recently left the system on an early retirement package because of frustration and stress, demoralized by systemic policies and procedures which resulted in an inability to perform their work in a manner that met their professional or personal values of quality service. Staff are increasingly unable to use their training, knowledge, skill, experience or discretion in serving clientele in the manner they would wish. Workers find themselves adapting to government values of cutting back and cutting out, rather than giving expression to values of providing assistance and compassion which motivated them to seek employment in the Ministry in the first place. Faced with unmanageable caseloads, with limited resources and an imperative to push their clients through the system, workers blame themselves when they recognize they have adopted a brusque and imperious manner. Ministry of Human Resources personnel need to be better supported in the difficult work of encountering on a daily basis the pain and frustration felt by their colleagues and supervisors. Lacking this internal support it is unlikely that social helpers will be able to demonstrate the capacity to model and nurture the necessary qualities of hope and resilience in their clients.

Social Distancing from the Perspective of THE VOTERS

I have outlined a perspective concerning the social, health and emotional costs of the social distancing which exists between people of different economic status. An awareness of this phenomenon will, I hope, enable us to review the situation for those in poverty in a more rational, balanced and supportive manner. At the same time, it is in everyone's interests to re-build a secure social infrastructure, with accessible help and real opportunity for those in need of assistance who have become socially and economically dislocated.

Streets are safer, crime is prevented, public health is fostered if we set in place a wide range of measures supported by enabling legislation. We need measures to ensure a housing policy, which will guarantee the safety and security of the home, as a social right. Income assistance policies and a web of socially supported community agencies can provide for rearing children in a loving, nurturing manner. Access to quality education and training opportunities opens the possibilities for all citizens to employ their unique potential. Compassionate members of society need to ensure that those who fall on hard times find the structures - and helping professionals - to re-empower them to become productive members of society to the greatest extent possible. As important, where by reason of physical or mental disability people are unable help themselves, they require forms of assistance which are adequate to preserve their dignity, their independence, and a basic standard of living.

THE GOLDEN RULE APPLIES HERE

Now proven by scientific study such as reported above, attitudes of social distancing toward members of other groups have been known over history through astute observation of human nature by great teachers and prophets. Each has argued for the marginalized, for widows, for children, and for the poor. To treat others as we would wish to be treated has been the Golden Rule of the great religions of Islam, Buddhism, Confucianism Judaism and Christianity. Secular institutions which take the longer view toward building a functioning community uphold the same principles. We are best off when we recognize the interdependence of all strata of society, providing the means where all are in community, helping each other, fostering the development of each to his or her own potential, helping those who, for whatever reason, are unable to help themselves.

Fair dealing is the basic foundation of a just and equitable society. As a morally -based community of citizens, we must be ever vigilant that we do in fact, treat our poor with justice. Legislators are faced with the responsibility of providing for those in straitened circumstances. Their decisions have to be based on a fair assessment in light of those circumstances. Legislators have a responsibility to set up processes which incorporate basic principles of equality and equity, to bring about healing and restoration, in a manner reflective of how they themselves would like to be treated in case of need.

Rich and poor equally deserve to be rescued from catastrophe and brought back to the surer ground of honourable, mutually enhancing community living.

To treat others as we would wish to be treated has been the Golden Rule of the great religions of Islam, Buddhism, Confucianism Judaism and Christianity.

The results showed that very few individuals did not fit the Ministry's criteria for disablement. Out of 18,705 cases reviewed, only 46 required re-evaluation and lost their benefits. This is an expenditure of just under \$108,700 per case discovered.

# ASK MARGARET DRYSDALE

Often confused with the fictitious Beverly Hillbillies character, this banker's wife - and self-defined princess - offers discrete advice to businessmen, preferably CEOs, with large inheritances.

## Deer Margrat Driesdale,

I don't usually write this kinda stuff, specially when I'm more busy watching the girls dance for me here at Monty's. It's kinda tough to admit it, but I'd sure appresheate yer help.

Trouble is, I can't find a decent chick. They just don't seem to like me, I ain't got no idea why. Here's one of my ways to git one, I tried it the other day but the girl just didn't bite.

First, I parked right near her in the parking lot of the building where I was dropping off some merchandise. She was cleaning her bike, had it upside down and was really going at it with an old toothbrush. Filthy, it was, and I thought for sure she'd want to leave it behind and drive away with me. So I left my car running and went into the building with the goods. I waited a couple extra minutes at my friends apartment, so she could really be impressed at how I leave my car burning gasoline without even caring about how much it costed.

Trouble is, she wasn't all that empressed. Before I went into the building she asked me to turn the car off, and said something about a Keeohtoh treaty, and when I came out of the building she said the fumes were awful and couldn't I have parked it somewhere else. I didn't have no time to waste, so I just told her flat out to f\*&% off, said she oughter move somewhere else where there's no gasoline or diesel, and then I called her a f\*#%ing c\*@t. Strange thing is, she didn't get into my car like I spected, just stood there looking at me while I drove away. She was making some kind of a V sign with her fingers, I guess that means she wants me to Visit her some other time?

Do you think so, Margaret, is that what she means? I can't think of no good reason why she wouldn't want to go with me. Please help me, I need to find a chick to marry this year so I can have a tax write off. I've axed lotsa the Monty's girls, but I guess they think I'm too good for em cause they always turns me down. Do you think maybe I'm too much of a macho stud for the girls these days? Watts there problem?

Sin sneerly,  
Hot Fella

Margaret awaits your queries or comments at [streetnewz@pej.ca](mailto:streetnewz@pej.ca)

Dear Hot Fella,

Hmmph, well, I'm sorry to say, but you do appear to have quite the dilemma. First of all, you must consider disseminating your screed to your personal secretary. You know, we've all heard the recent news that 80% of all MBA business students admit to cheating their way through university, but we don't really need to broadcast how truly illiterate we are now, do we?

Apparently your business education has penetrated about customers coming first, so I'm delighted to see that you are delivering your product. But I'm afraid I feel the same way about our beloved imbecile, President Bush. Although he is doing such a splendid job blowing peace and democracy around the world, it is most unfortunate that his daddy bought him through school and that he has the IQ of a newt.

But as for your other little problem, of course, for people of our calibre and standing, who, er, well might be a little less than, shall we say, generously endowed, there are so many wonderful opportunities to remediate that 'situation.' You shouldn't even require surgery!

Take the owner of Valhalla Outfitters, for example. There is very much juicy gossip down at Margaret Drysdale's tea and crumpets parties about his embellishments, but Mr. Valhalla has now solved his shortcoming, and bought himself a Hummer! Now my dear Hot Fella, this is an entirely different Hummer than the one you were expecting from that woman cleaning her bicycle with a toothbrush. Just think, if you had pulled up in your very own personal military assault vehicle and left it running, that "f\*#%ing c\*@t" would have soon been asphyxiated!

Of course, the Hummer is only for those with the most serious curtailments down there. Many chicks will be able to see beyond such disappointment in the membership department if they are able to do a Lincoln Navigator, or even perhaps, the Ford Excursion. Having any of these will, no doubt, be the ultimate chick-magnet, and you'll be supporting George W. Bush's Iraq-massacre to boot. Because if we're not suckin' the gas, there ain't no need for kickin' Iraqi ass! One last word of advice, my dear Hot Fella, don't be wasting no time on these bicycle plebes. They just aren't in our league!

Cheers, your friend, Margaret Drysdale

## David vs. Goliath

St. Ann's update- Tuesday (Mar. 22, 2005)

Lighter and in good spirit.

On the 1st of this month I was sentenced to 30 days in jail (so, doing 2/3rds time, I did 20 days. I was released on Sunday morning).

The fasting did depleat me somewhat. I lost about a pound and a half a day. From 165 to 142. Was put in segregation for the first 17 days, then to a general population cell with a tv (I really got to appreciating the sensory deprivation of the 'hole'-gave me lots of time to think about what I was going to do when I got out- and think about food, tasty tasty food, then remind myself of patience, read some trashy ww2 spy novel, rest, read, rest, think about food, remind self of patience, think about the future... etc, etc... repeat over and over again for 17 days, 23 hours a day. A very interesting process, all in all.

My mom came to visit me. Hadn't seen her in about 4 years. It was pretty good. My family is so fantastically magnificent that it has to make up crazy dramas just to keep itself occupied. She left me a bottle of Bailey's (purly medicinal reasons), so I've been embracing the island spirit.

As soon as I was released I had the opportunity to throw together a little flyer thingy that I'll be flinging around for the next week (as I intend to return to St. Ann's next Monday night, the 28th). I will post it on the web at- [www.angelfire.com/apes/hatrackman/7thbreach.htm](http://www.angelfire.com/apes/hatrackman/7thbreach.htm)

much love and blessings,  
David

PS: My dreams have been really good.  
Ego is only portion of self. Patience be with you.  
Journal of the Occupation of St. Ann's Academy (Victoria, BC, Canada)- <http://www.angelfire.com/apes/hatrackman/welcome.htm>



## Registering the Homeless Vote

I am responding to your email re: homeless voters voting in the upcoming May 17, 2005 provincial general election. Under the *Election Act*, all qualified voters are eligible to vote (see <http://www.elections.bc.ca/reg/vreg3.htm>)

If an individual who has no dwelling place to register as a voter on the basis that the individual's place of residence is a shelter, hostel or similar institution that provides food, lodging or other social services, they can register at this address. Or, if they don't have an address, they can still register by providing a street location (e.g., Blanshard and Johnson).

For your information, in early April, Elections BC will be enumerating all shelters in B.C. in preparation for the May 17, 2005 provincial general election.

If you have any further questions, please contact me directly via email.  
Sincerely,

Jennifer Miller  
Communications Manager  
Elections BC  
Phone: (250) 387-5305  
Toll free 1-800-661-8683 / TTY 1-888-456-5448  
[Jennifer.Miller@elections.bc.ca](mailto:Jennifer.Miller@elections.bc.ca)  
[www.elections.bc.ca](http://www.elections.bc.ca)





# Rise of the Machines

Election results have been tampered and interfered with throughout the US. Actual results in Ohio over fraudulent voting processes are still in the courts.

Senator Barbara Boxer challenged the certification for President saying that the vote shouldn't be certified until verified. Most Democrats in the House didn't show for the final vote. It looks like the end of the democracy in the US. Bush was certified President and justice has been tossed in the trash.

The Republicans argued that anyone who thought the election was anything but fair is an X-file extremist. The idea that this is a frivolous case couldn't be farther from the truth. It looks like propaganda and votes won the day over justice.

Exit polls had John Kerry winning both the popular and electoral vote in the US. This election was no different than the Ukrainian election except the fraud is just a tiny bit subtler. Of course in Ukraine the Bush line was that the election was fraudulent as shown by the exit polls. In the US their stance was reversed.

If you think the crooked voting machines won't be used in Canada.... think again. Bev Harris, who first started investigating voting machines, found an interesting memo discarded in the Diebold trash. The note concerned a voting machine they sent to Canada. It got returned because it malfunctioned. The machine was put in another box and sent back. Of course the memo ended up in the trash.

In the vote over whether to finally bring in the ward system in Vancouver, they used touch screen voting machines without a paper trail. It looked like people were supporting a ward system but the vote turned out the other way. Was this fraud? No trail. We will never know.

That is the problem with voting machines! To change the voting process should require constitutional approval. Tampering with the voting process can be very dangerous to freedom and democracy. Before a voting change, everything that is to change should be visible for all to see.

In our next BC election we will be voting on the STV voting system that on the surface looks reasonable. An algorithm will be applied to the results to ensure proportional voting. No one has said how this is to work or who will be counting the votes. The complication of this process is likely to require computers to figure out who won in a timely way

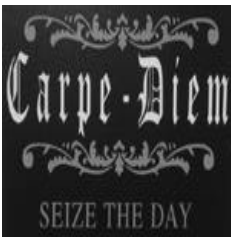
Check out [blackboxvoting.org](http://blackboxvoting.org) for more info on voting machine scams.

Jim Alexander + Susan Lee

**Conservation Voters of BC - [www.conservationvoters.ca/mlas](http://www.conservationvoters.ca/mlas):**  
Tune into to the exciting world of BC environmental politics ...  
Check out our NEW tracking tool to record what your MLA is saying about air, water, land, and critters.



Busloads of Vancouver based anti-poverty activists descended on the legislature on budget day, 2005.



2005 has been designated "the year to make poverty history". Bob Geldoff (Band-Aid) and Bono (U2) are spearheading a global campaign that will run throughout 2005 - peaking at the G8 Summit in July.

Nelson Mandela recently said that poverty, like slavery, is not natural. We created it and, together, we can bring it to an end.

Please join the Make Poverty History campaign by signing up at [www.makepovertyhistory.ca](http://www.makepovertyhistory.ca) and by wearing a white armband.

# Do you remember? A Native Perspective

May 17, 2005 has been picked as E-day by Gordon Campbell four years ago to the day that he and his party had elected. During that day he has created a huge wave of destruction, bigger then the Tsunami that killed tens of thousand of people living near the ocean, on Boxing Day.

Who will come and save us from our government? The corporation? The new voter? Maybe we can get some other countries to send us some help for our lack of housing, food, health care and education.

I believe the Liberals were counting on everyone to forget things like the Munroe contract-which they ripped up canceling out hundreds of unionized jobs that provided thousands of child, family and health care services. This was the first contract to go right after they gave themselves a twenty-five percent wage increase. To me this was the first wave of attacks that have continued to systematically target the poor and women from all levels of class and race.

Then there was the Referendum which I consider one of the most racist documents ever produced in our era. This came at the cost of dividing our country's first citizens, paid for by you and me to the tune of millions of dollars. We won this battle with a 64.9% ballot turned into us with support letters in our favour. Yet the Liberals said that they were only counting the ballots that they received, and the ones that we received did not count even though we delivered them in person to the Legislature with thousands of witnesses. Sounds like to me that they are still practicing an age old tradition of thievery just like their ancestors did to my relatives. Maybe they are chalking this up to keeping their culture alive.

Do the liberals think that we can't see their biases and that they have systematically removed all workers and jobs connected to the well being of the province? Did they not think about the fact that they have both old and new voters who have the power to cast their ballot? As if they would listen to one little piece of paper. The only piece of paper that they are going to listen to is the almighty dollar. One that will be pushed in front of them by the corporations that support both them and the United States government.

Do you remember?

- Closures of hospitals and schools - 113
- The attack on the disabled that caused numerous deaths, attempted suicides; the cost for this attack - \$5 million
- User fee increases for marriage licenses, driver's licenses to criminal record checks,
- Gutting of the ferry workers collective agreement
- Privatization of our ferries,
- Health care waiting list increases 20%
- Lowering of minimum wage for young people- Six Buck Sucks and the low ering of the work force entry to twelve years of age-this is in direct violation of the United Nations Labor code agreement,
- The gift of the unilateral labour rights to the employers Munroe Contract - Ripped up costing 8700 support workers their jobs,
- Pharmacies cuts by \$150 million increasing our cost \$10.00 to \$25.00 and decreasing the amount of drugs that pharmacies would cover. Increasing pharmacy fees by 50%
- Racist Referendum,

Here comes the promise of more money being returned to women's safe houses and specific education services. This time with strike conditions attached to the money bag. This is money that was taken from these services in the first place. This kind of reminds me of an abusive partner who continuously says I will never hurt you again. A few of us have learned our lessons and no longer willing to tolerate this type of abuse. Unfortunately for all of us there are a still people there who will. Why they do no one really knows.

I would like to think that people really don't know what abuse is. But as a survivor of the governments' failed attempted genocide and a woman of Kanada pre-kanadian society I believe that I have more than enough first hand experience with abuse. Especially if it is being imposed by the government. Our society has been taught to help care for the physically abused person, but we have not been taught or given much thought about the emotional, mental, or spiritual abuse that usually happens long before and after the initial physical stuff. The emotional, spiritual and mental abuse is the stuff that we cannot see until the individual starts acting out. Usually when they start doing this they will then get some kind of response from either the abuser or community member.

Right now we are receiving our tokens of appreciation from our abuser (aka our current government) who is probably hoping and praying that we all forget about the last four years of domestic abuse that they have imposed on all British Columbians with special darts ear marked for w omen of all races and age groups, labour groups, First Nations and children.

Unfortunately there are a few of us who will gratefully accept the token stolen from us in the first place and forget. Then there are those of who won't forget because we have learned to share and care for one another. Then there are those of us can't forget because it is in our blood to never let this kind of abuse happen to us again. We remember!

Remember we are all the representatives of what our ancestors fought for and are the guardians to our future and future of the generations to come.

**World Conference on Racism in Victoria What's Your Thoughts?**  
**e-mail Race Relations at [ccrrr@shwa.ca](mailto:ccrrr@shwa.ca) or stop by our office at 620 View St.**

Rose Henry

Meet The Carlyle Group - Former World Leaders and Washington Insiders Making Billions in the 'War on Terrorism' [www.hereinreality.com/carlyle.html](http://www.hereinreality.com/carlyle.html)

"As long as you keep a person down, some part of you has to be down there to hold him down, so it means you cannot soar as you otherwise might." *Marian Anderson, 1902-1993, Concert and Opera Singer*

From Deutschland to Bella Coola and back again

Arrived at Vancouver International Airport after the first flight in all my life. Passport control:

“Why do you come to Canada?”

“I would like to go to Bella Coola.”

“Why??”

“I would like to go and see the Indians.”

I had read that it would be best to tell the truth. Well, I did and the officers laughed their heads off....Why? Is this such a ridiculous wish?

I am a German school teacher. My subjects are maths and science. Environmental issues are not only part of our curriculum but also my own concern. My students and I have planted lots of trees and shrubs in our school grounds and we run a shop where we sell recycled paper. A German ENGO rewarded our activities: Nuxalk Hereditary Chief Qwatsinas visited our school in July 2002! Many of us had expected a long-haired man with a feather head dress and a buckskin suit. But we learned that the traditional clothing of a



Nuxalk Chief was a button blanket and a head dress made out of a carving, sea lion whiskers and ermine fur. One should come off the idea that all Indians live in tepees, ride horses and hunt buffaloes!

Chief Qwatsinas made a slide presentation in our assembly hall telling us about the wildlife, the trees and the clear cuts of old growth in the Great Bear Rainforest. Nuxalk Chiefs and Elders had protested against the clear cutting of their sacred Ista Valley in 1995 and 1997. But the logging company INTERFOR applied for an injunction. The Supreme Court of BC punished the Chiefs and Elders for protecting their own territory. The Nuxalk Nation never gave their lands away. Only 5 % of BC is private property. 95 % is unceded land. For us it is clear that the Nuxalk are in the right.

We gave Chief Qwatsinas a small tree in our school grounds as a symbol of our friendship. He surprised us when he put some eagle down on it and gave the Nuxalk name “Amulth” (spring salmon) to it. This ceremony was very impressive for us.

Consequently we started writing letters to people of influence asking them to help save the Great Bear Rainforest and the other magnificent ancient forests of BC. We received answers from the Prince of Wales, Prime Minister Chrétien and INTERFOR VP Ric Slaco, for example. Premier Gordon Campbell has not responded to one of our letters so far. Certainly we are very disappointed because the giant trees and all the wild animals are still unprotected except in parks.

I kept in touch with Chief Qwatsinas. He was involved in a campaign against fish farms and hatcheries as well. But in spite of that he answered my emails and I learned a lot about the West Coast First Nations, the environmental and social problems. I admit that Germans might have many stereotyped ideas about “Red Indians”. But all of them are very positive. The idea of the “noble savage” is still common in Germany. From our own experience we can understand the situation of the First Nations in BC pretty well. We are kind of “Teutonic

Aboriginals” who are still proud to have won a battle against the Roman Empire 2000 years ago. We don’t like to be colonised – and we respect that other peoples have rights and titles, too. (Although I must confess that there were times in German history when we forgot...)

After studying many, many books and websites about BC, the First Nations, the wildlife and forests I yearned to see all that through my own eyes. But I was afraid to travel so far. I had never been out of Europe before, never gone by plane and have not travelled alone for more than twenty years. But my daughters encouraged me to make the journey. Eventually I booked a flight from Amsterdam to Vancouver, and another one from Vancouver to Bella Coola. Flying was great! I could not see enough of the lands below: Iceland, Greenland, Canada .. I am afraid of climbing a mountain but I enjoyed to fly in an airplane and watch Mother Earth from above. It is awesome!

Flying with the small plane from Vancouver to Bella Coola I could see Vancouver Island. I watched many clear cuts and the typical patchwork pattern of a “civilized” country. Very disappointing!

It was a great adventure for me to live in the Nuxalk Indian reserve. Chief Qwatsinas showed me the giant trees, we observed some Coho salmon, and I saw the “Hill,” that’s Highway 20 passing the Coast Mountains. In the House of Smayusta I met Head Chief Nuximlayc. He told me amazing stories about Nuxalk tradition and their way of life. Also I visited Acwsalcta School. It is a beautiful building made out of timber all over. I would like to work there!

I enjoyed to stay in Chief Qwatsinas’ house. It is a trailer with some additional rooms. From the outside it looks very small but from the inside it is a snug home. We had delicious meals: smoked salmon, barbecued salmon, cooked salmon, fried salmon, jarred salmon, frozen salmon, salmon sushi, salmon sandwich... well, some other food, too. In Germany wild salmon is an expensive delicacy. My incorrect pronunciation of “salmon” caused a lot of amusement. Qwatsinas still teases me sometimes writing “sallmon” in his emails. I have done without farmed salmon for two years now as protest against the open net Atlantic salmon farms which obviously are destroying the wild Pacific salmon habitat. I wonder why BC government does not grasp it and consequently bans fish farms as it is practised in Alaska.

Chief Qwatsinas maintains a vessel. In summer he catches salmon and sometimes halibut. Then every member of his family will receive fish as provision for the next winter. Qwatsinas told me about his trips to the Namu region and about the whales and dolphins. I would like to watch a whale sometime....

Certainly I helped in the kitchen and in the garden. We jarred lots of pears. Chief Qwatsinas stored many sealers filled with salmon and fruit as provisions for the next winter. Many people just dropped in to have a talk. I went to see Richard and Harry Schooner. They are carvers and can create masks, totem poles, silver bracelets and many more. I bought a carved grizzly bear as a souvenir. Unfortunately I could not observe a real one in the forest. I also had a video camera with me and took a movie. My family, students and colleagues were very interested in watching it and listening to my story.

At my last evening in Bella Coola I was so sad. But there was something that cheered me up: the northern light! I had never observed an aurora borealis before. As a science teacher I know why it happens but it was so great to see it through my own eyes.

Back from Bella Coola I got to know about Ingmar Lee’s tour in Germany. He made presentations in Europe to raise awareness about the situation of the old growth in BC. I attended one of his slide shows in order to meet him and to learn more about BC. Many Germans would like to travel there to see the last remaining wildernesses of the earth. Almost all German forests are plantations. So it is really amazing for us to experience a primeval forest. We cannot understand that logging more than 500 year old trees is allowed in Canada. In Germany trees that age would certainly be protected. There are no trees of 100 metres in Europe. I have tried to explain to students about the feeling to stand next to such a giant. We compared it to our three-story school building. It is just unbelievable to them that trees can grow so high!

I could go on telling you about the Cathedral Grove protest camp, Betty Krawczyk, Alexandra Morton, Tre Arrow and many more people and actions I truly admire. Certainly I would like to travel to British Columbia again. I would wish to find all the ancient forests and wild animals protected, the rivers filled with wild salmon and the First Nations living in pride and self-determination in their own territories.

With all my best wishes from good old Germany, Angelika Hanko



Since being elected in 2001 the Liberals have generally treated the environment as some hippie crap they found in the basement after the NDP moved out.” Jack Knox, Times Colonist, February 10th, 2005

“Northwest coast peoples knew the cedar tree intimately, and all of its parts were highly valued. The wood was used to make canoes, paddles, house planks, house posts, crest and mortuary poles, bentwood boxes, bows, masks, bowls and dishes. The fibrous inner bark was fashioned into clothing, hats, mats, masks, rattles, nets, twine, blankets, diapers, towels, and rope. The coarse outer bark was used for roofing material, canoe bailers and canoe covers. The withes, or flexible branchlets that hang down from the main branches, were valued for making heavy-duty rope, fish traps, and baskets. Even the roots were used, to make baskets and cradles.”

From “Sacred Cedar: The Cultural and Archaeological Significance of Culturally Modified Trees,” Arnoud Stryd & Vicki Feddema”  
[www.davidsuzuki.org/Forests/Publications.asp](http://www.davidsuzuki.org/Forests/Publications.asp)

“We have not cut down CMT’s ... without authorization...”  
Weyerhaeuser VP Tom Holmes, at a press conference announcing the Cathedral Grove ‘park’ expansion, March 2005.





UVic student Ingmar Lee has planted over a million young trees in B.C.

In his opinion, "Culturally Modified Trees are a living heritage, a recognized archaeological 'resource,' and it is illegal to cut them down.

Many environmentalists argue that the laws around cutting them need to be strengthened, entire tracts of forests containing CMT's must be protected in their entirety."

"The British Columbia Heritage Conservation Act makes it illegal to 'damage, desecrate or alter a provincial heritage object or remove from a provincial heritage site ... any object or material,' unless granted a permit" (Times Colonist, March 23/05)

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(from www.conservatree.org/learn/EnviroIssues/TreeStats.shtml)

**SOME TYPICAL CALCULATIONS**

1 ton of uncoated virgin (non-recycled) printing and office paper uses 24 trees  
1 ton of 100% virgin (non-recycled) newsprint uses 12 trees

A "pallet" of copier paper (20-lb. sheet weight, or 20#) contains 40 cartons and weighs 1 ton. Therefore,  
1 carton (10 reams) of 100% virgin copier paper uses .6 trees  
1 tree makes 16.67 reams of copy paper or 8,333.3 sheets  
1 ream (500 sheets) uses 6% of a tree  
1 ton of coated, higher-end virgin magazine paper (used for magazines like National Geographic and many others) uses a little more than 15 trees (15.36)  
1 ton of coated, lower-end virgin magazine paper (used for newsmagazines and most catalogs) uses nearly 8 trees (7.68)

**How do you calculate how many trees are saved by using recycled paper?**

(1) Multiply the number of trees needed to make a ton of the kind of paper you're talking about (groundwood or freesheet), then  
(2) multiply by the percent recycled content in the paper.  
For example, 1 ton (40 cartons) of 30% postconsumer content copier paper saves 7.2 trees, and 1 ton of 50% postconsumer content copier paper saves 12 trees.

**Ever wondered how many trees worth of paper your publication uses each year?** Or how many trees you can save by adopting recycled paper? The PAPER Wizard is designed to help you:  
<http://www.ecopaperaction.org/wizard/>

**National Geographic**, which uses 505,819 trees every year, already saves 2,255 trees annually by using 10% post-consumer recycled paper for its cover. But it could save an additional 48,552 trees each year if it used recycled paper for its text pages as well: [www.ecopaperaction.org/news1.html](http://www.ecopaperaction.org/news1.html)

**Send a consistent message.** Buy post-consumer recycled or tree free. (if it's not pc recycled, it might be the shavings off the pulpmill floor).

**Post consumer recycled paper is available:**  
Buy in bulk from from Reach for Unbleached: <http://rfu.org>, or ask your favourite print shop and office supply store to carry it. It costs a tiny bit more, but you can't buy an ancient forest. They're irreplaceable, and they're disappearing - fast.



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As conscientious objectors to military taxation, we choose to follow the dictate of our conscience and refuse to pay for war. As A.J. Muste once said, "there is no way to peace, peace is the way"...We commit ourselves to work for peace & justice.  
[members.shaw.ca/consciencecanada/](http://members.shaw.ca/consciencecanada/)

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250-686-1956 250-382-4793

**Alan Rycroft  
Consultant**

**Public Relations and Fund Development**

250.592.8307  
[rycroft@SunshineCommunications.ca](mailto:rycroft@SunshineCommunications.ca)

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Ted and Bok



Shirley



Debbie



Marlene



Kay



John

Street Newz vendors are friendly and courteous. They enhance the character of our local community through the time-honoured tradition of newspaper hawking..

If you are a business owner or manager who wouldn't mind having a newspaper vendor near your doorway, please contact Janine at 598-3064.

Gordon MacPherson

was one of the first Victoria Street Newz vendors. He brought the experience, enthusiasm, and experience he gained while selling the Red Zone newspaper, predecessor to the Street Newz, published in the 1990s.

Reverend Al from the Open Door says Gordon volunteered at a lot of places around town, including AIDS Vancouver Island, the Mustard Seed, the Open Door, and Street Link. "He didn't go around boasting about this," Al remembers, and of all the different work he did in the community "I think it was the street papers that gave him a sense of meaning and self worth." Gordon passed to the spirit world, too young, in 2005.

Many describe Reverend Al as a living Saint, and certainly his job is not always easy. He is too often called to identify bodies, over 50 last year. About Gordon's memorial service Al says "it was well attended by his peers, professionals, and the nurses who were with him at the end. He really touched a lot of peoples' lives."



Advertising in Street Newz

Policy:

- 1. Street Newz will not promote the sale of humans, their sexual services or products. We won't print images of people as sexual objects, or animals being tortured.
- 2. Street Newz will give priority space to earth friendly, peace oriented, local community organizations and businesses that are not affiliated with any one political party.
- 3. Please email a copy of the constitution, mission statement, or mandate from your organization for editorial approval.

Rates (negotiable):

Biz card size: \$30/ea or \$150 for 6 issues (non-profit: \$25/ea or \$125 for 6)  
1/4 page: \$60/ea or \$300 for 6 issues (non-profit: \$50/ea or \$250 for six)  
1/2 page: \$100/ea or \$500 for 6 issues (non-profit: \$75/ea or \$375 for six)

Contact Janine: 598-3064 or streetnewz@pej.ca

Teaching a child not to step on a caterpillar is as valuable to the child as it is to the caterpillar.

Bradley Miller

Street Newz subscribers keep us publishing!

While Street Newz vendors appreciate your direct purchases, other contributions sustain our production team. Every little bit helps a lot! A subscription (\$20 or more/yr) is an excellent gift for you, or a friend.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ Province/State \_\_\_\_\_

Postal/Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Ph/email: \_\_\_\_\_

- ☐ Deliver to me, at the address above!
- ☐ Deliver to my friend, at the address here:

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ Province/State \_\_\_\_\_

Postal/Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Ph/email: \_\_\_\_\_

Please make cheques payable to Janine Bandcroft, or the Bread and Roses Collective (we're both not-for-profits!). c/o #407, 1939 Lee Avenue, Victoria BC, V8R 4W9

Someday we may issue tax receipts, for now we just thank you!

counting the beans ...

Expenses	Oct/Nov	Dec/Jan	Feb/Mar
Paper & Printing Costs	1085.39	918.15	860.58
Office - CEDCO Victoria	40.00	35.64	40.41
Wages & Salaries	1201.57	563.12	1624.92
Misc. (postage, fees, etc.)	56.38	93.05	45.04
T-shirts	120.00	0.00	0.00
Submissions	0.00	28.00	35.00
Share Deposit	0.00	50.00	0.00
Bus Tickets (2 for 1)	0.00	0.00	35.00
Ttl Operating Expenses	2503.34	1687.96	2640.95
Revenue (To Mar 27th)			
Advertising (payment rec'd)	85.00	25.00	150.00
Paper Sales	864.90	957.96	943.95
Donations	1057.68	545.00	747.00
Subscriptions	235.00	160.00	100.00
Fundraiser at UVic	108.50	0.00	0.00
Milk JUGernauts fundraiser	152.26	0.00	0.00
City of Victoria - grant	0.00	0.00	500.00
Fundraiser w/Mask Removal	0.00	0.00	200.00
Total Operating Revenue*	2503.34	1687.96	2640.95

\* previously published numbers tabulated incorrectly

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This newzpaper wouldn't be the same without you!

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Please give us some credit and refere nce the source.

"The frog does not drink up the pond in which he lives."

Buddhist Proverb